



AUGUST • 1

MARVEL  
COMICS  
M

APPROVED  
BY THE  
COMICS  
CODE  
AUTHORITY

# SPIDER-MAN MAXIMUM CLONAGE™

ALPHA



From the  
pens of  
Austin



SPRINGVILLE,  
PENNSYLVANIA--

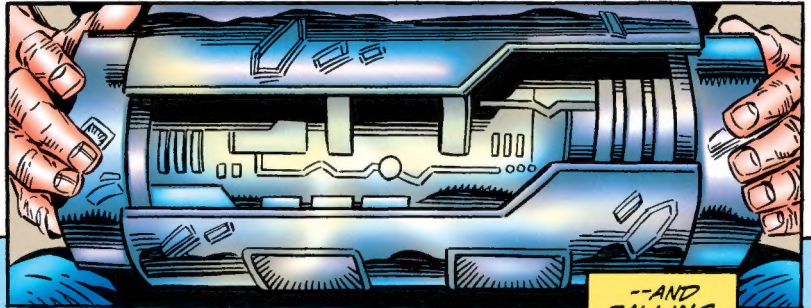
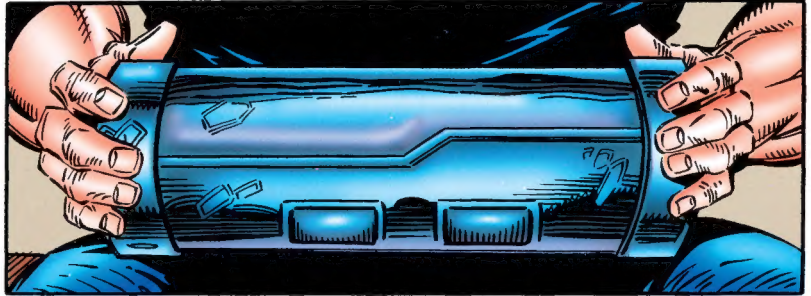
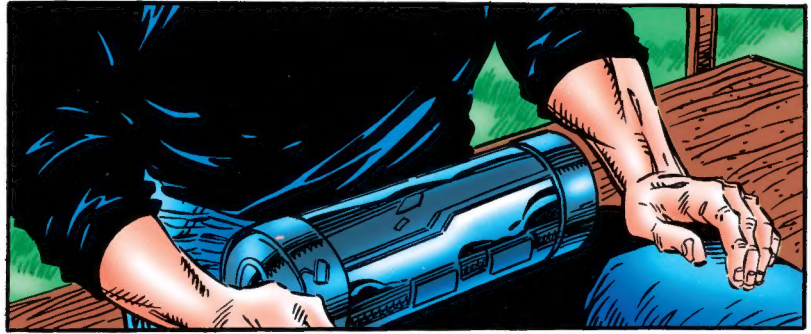
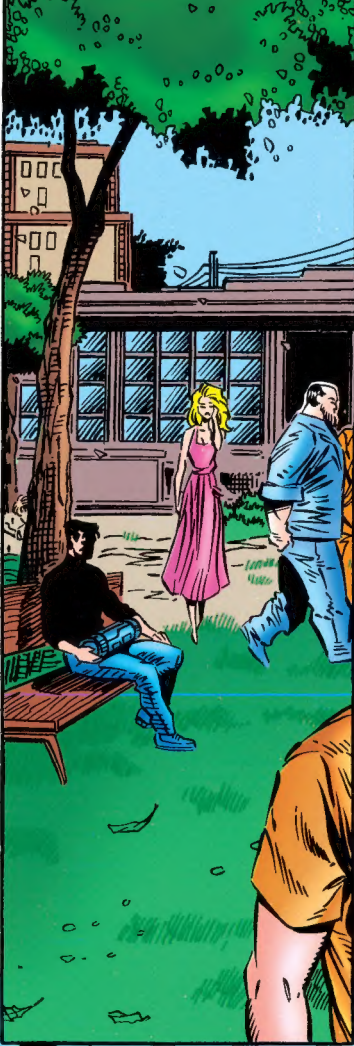
--POPULATION,  
2,601--

EAGLE'S CAREER SHOP

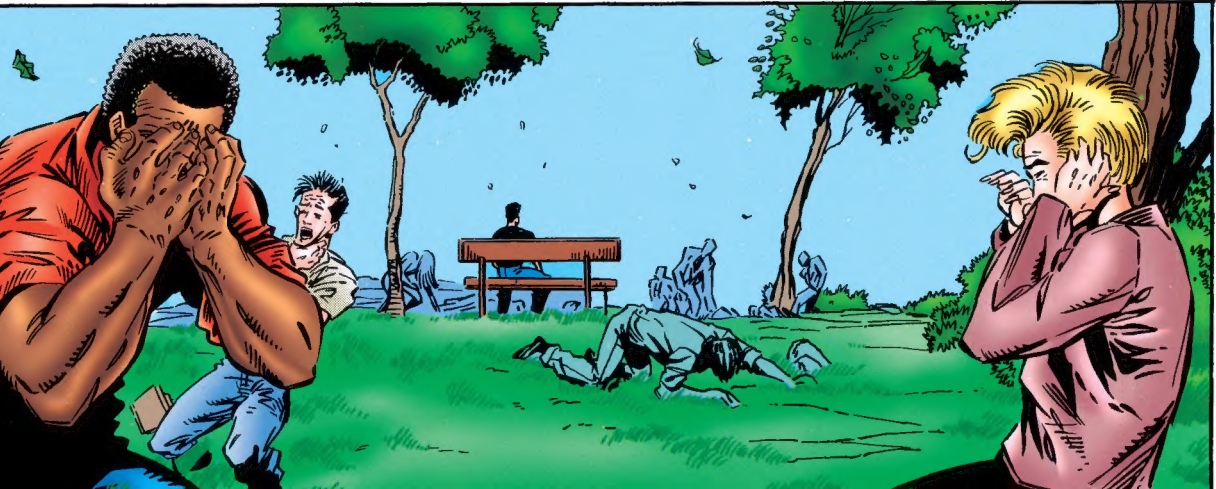
DINER



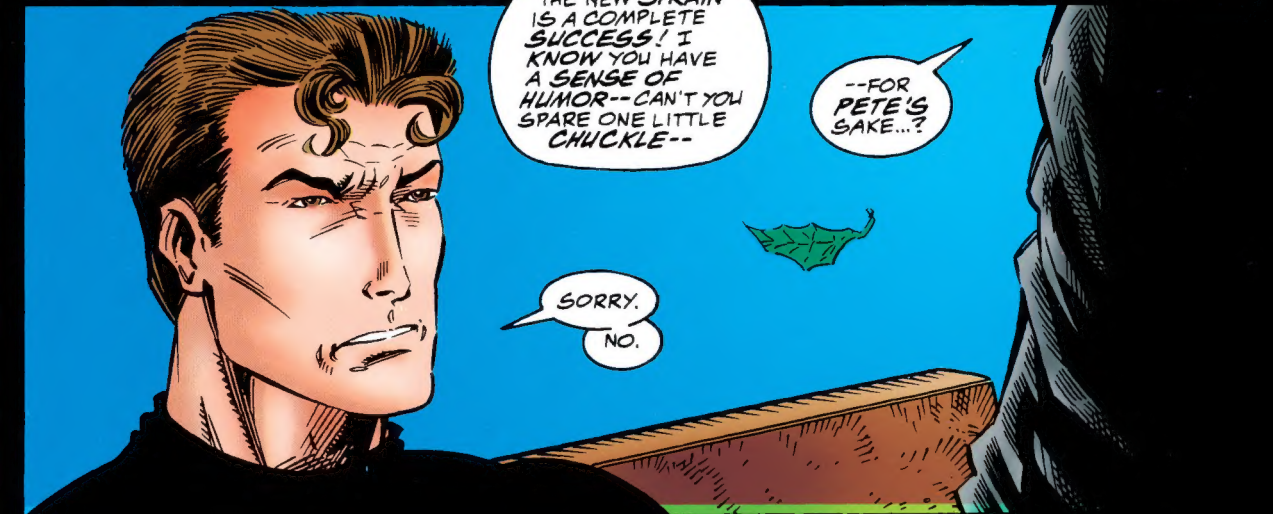
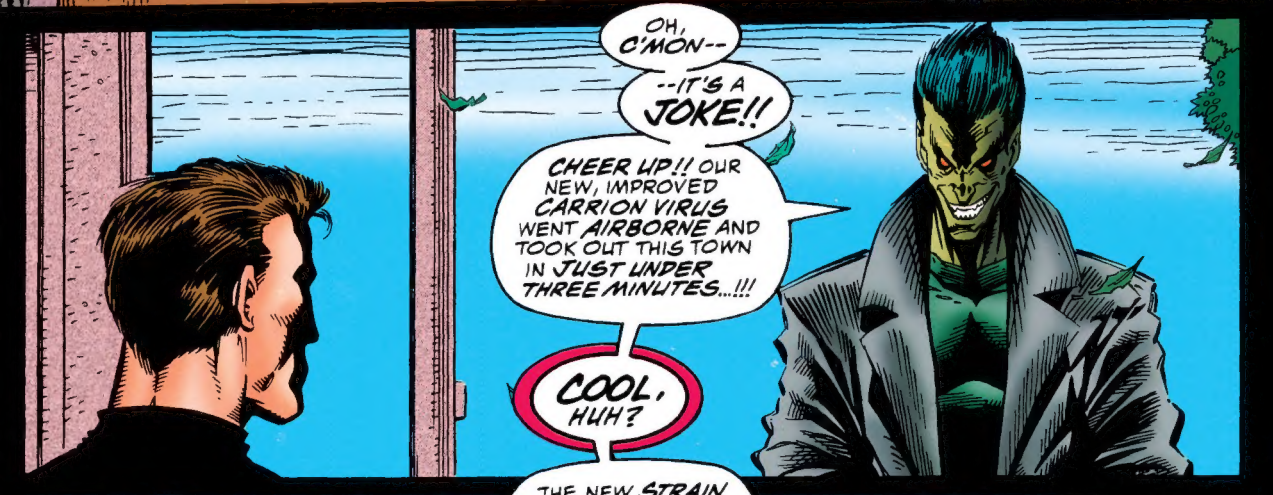
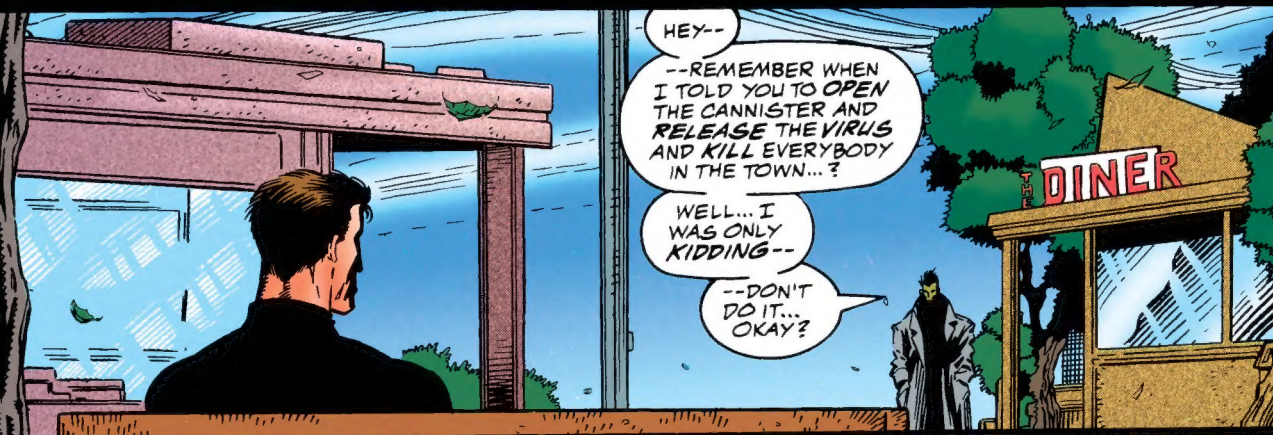




--AND FALLING.









STAN LEE PRESENTS-- A MULTITUDE OF SPIDER-MEN IN...

**MAXIMUM  
DAMAGE**  
PART 1

# ...AND THE JACKAL CRIES, "DEATH!"

AH--DO I DETECT  
THE STING OF THAT OLD  
"RESPONSIBILITY"--  
THAT MORAL FIBER  
THAT RUNS SO STRONGLY  
THROUGH YOU...?

THE END OF THE WORLD AS WE KNOW IT...  
PRESENTED BY:  
TOM DEFALCO TODD DEZAGO  
PLOT SCRIPT  
RON LIM AL MILGROM  
PENCILS INKS  
TOM SMITH KEN LOPEZ  
COLORS LETTERS  
MARK BERNARDO DANNY FINGEROTH  
ASSISTANT EDITOR EDITOR  
BOB BUDIAISKY--EDITOR-IN-CHIEF  
WOLFPACK AND FOODHAMMER!  
MALIBU COMPUTER COLOR

OH, WELL--THAT'LL  
DISSIPATE IN  
TIME--JUST LIKE THE  
VIRUS...!

ACTUALLY, YOU  
TWO HAVE A LOT IN  
COMMON-- YOU'RE  
BOTH A COUPLE OF  
DEADLY KILLERS--





--AND I COOKED YOU BOTH UP IN THE LAB!

IT'S WONDERFUL THE WAY THE VIRUS WORKED, ISN'T IT? INSTANTLY KILLING EVERYONE--LEAVING JUST US CLONES--

--GIVING YOU AND ME THIS OPPORTUNITY FOR SOME QUALITY TIME, JUST THE TWO OF US--

--FATHER AND SON!

OF COURSE, YOUR BROTHERS-- BEN AND PETER--

--I MEAN, THE REAL PETER--

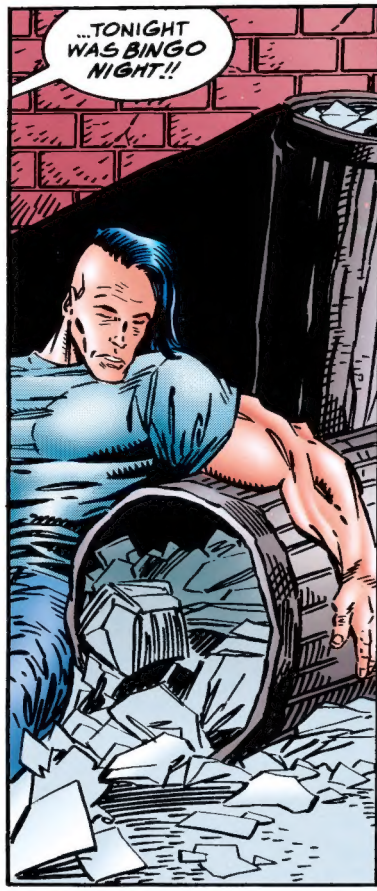
--I MEAN THE REAL FAKE PETER--

--YOU KNOW WHAT I MEAN--

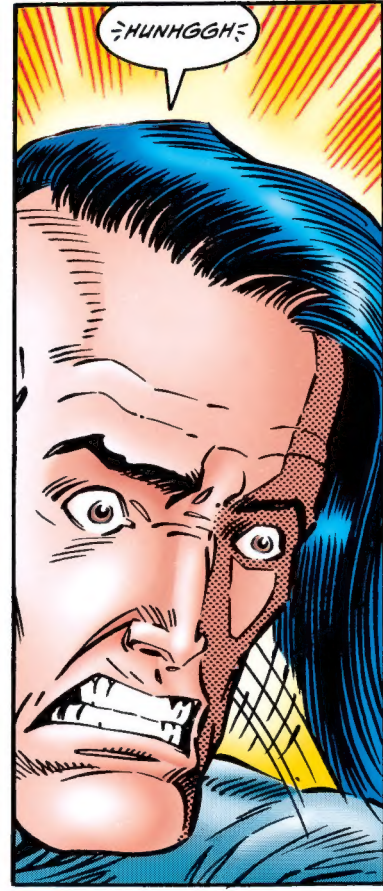


--PROBABLY WOULDN'T APPROVE OF ALL THIS, SO LET'S JUST KEEP IT BETWEEN US, OKAY...?

DANG! MAYBE WE SHOULD'VE WAITED 'TIL TOMORROW TO DO THIS...



...TONIGHT WAS BINGO NIGHT!!



~HUNHGGH~



A dramatic comic book panel showing Peter Parker crouching on a rooftop. He is looking down with a somber expression, his hands resting on the ledge. Behind him, a large, dark dragon with its wings spread is perched on the roof. The background shows a city skyline under a blue, rainy sky. The scene is filled with a sense of despair and loss.

HE WISHES THE  
RAIN COULD WASH  
HIM AWAY--

--COULD MELT HIM INTO  
THE COLD GREY STONE OF  
HIS SILENT COMPANIONS--

--COULD SOMEHOW FILL THE  
EMPTY PLACE WHERE HE USED  
TO KEEP HIS LIFE--USED TO  
KEEP HIS DREAMS.

BECAUSE TODAY  
PETER PARKER  
LEARNED THAT HIS  
DREAMS WERE A  
JOKE--THAT HIS  
LIFE WAS A LIE!

TODAY HE LEARNED  
THAT HE WAS A  
CLONE!!

--THE CLONE!!!

AND AS HE WATCHES  
HIS HUMANITY  
SLOWLY SLIP AWAY...



... HE THINKS BACK ON HIS RECENT LIFE THAT, NOW, SEEMS TO HAVE BEEN MOCKING HIM!



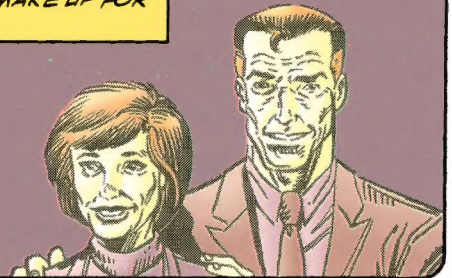
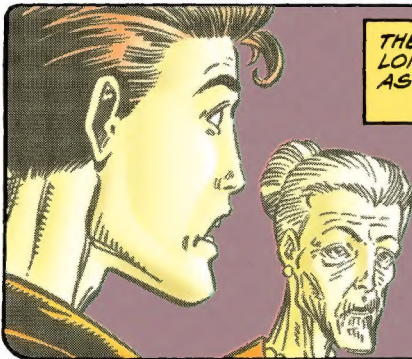
HE THINKS OF THE COLD, CRUEL LESSONS LIFE HAS HANDED HIM LATELY--



--LESSONS OF ANGUISH AND DESPAIR.



THE RETURN OF HIS PARENTS, BELIEVED LONG DEAD, WHO HAD ABANDONED HIM AS AN INFANT, LONGING TO MAKE UP FOR LOST TIME--

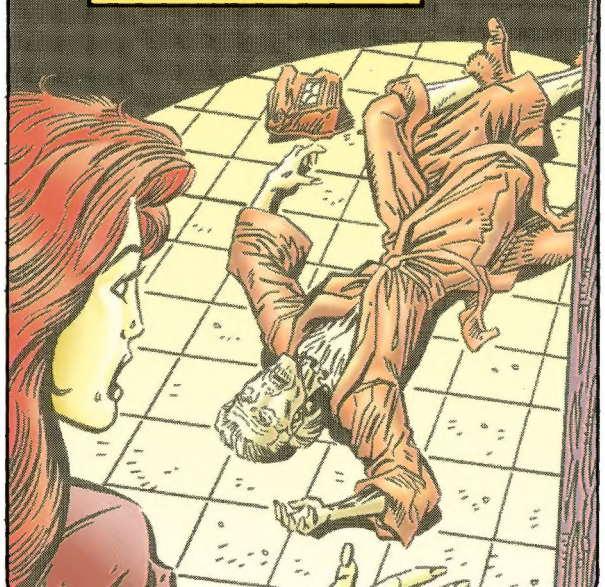


--AND HIS OWN HEARTBREAK AS THEY WERE REVEALED TO BE NOT HIS PARENTS AT ALL, BUT SIMULACRA--MINIONS OF THE CHAMELEON!

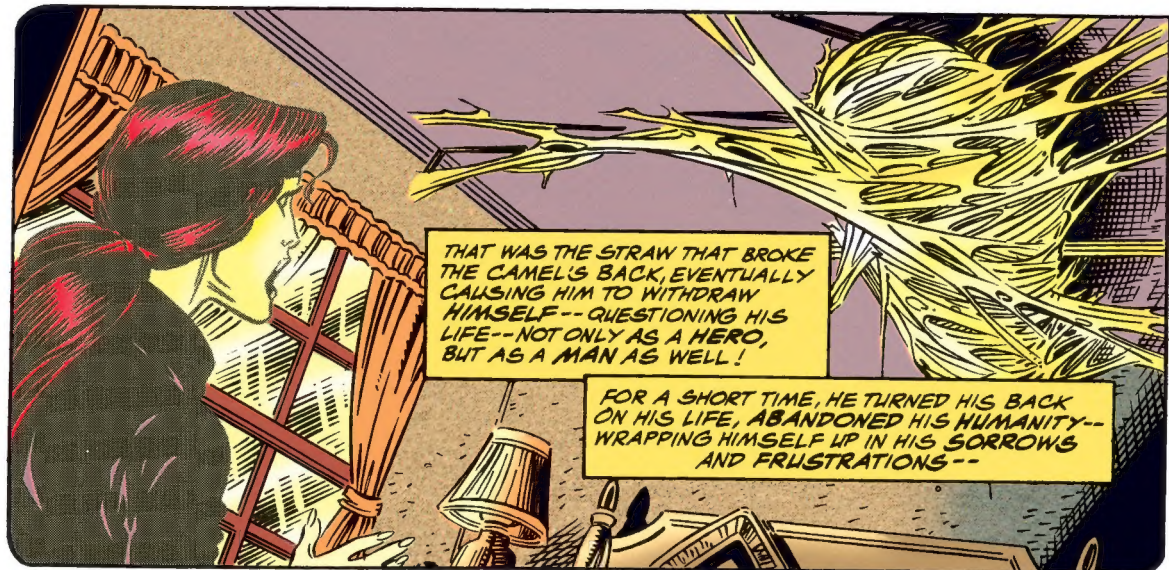


HIS RECALLS HIS WORST FEAR REALIZED, AS AUNT MAY FELL VICTIM TO A DEVASTATING STROKE--

--THEN SLIPPED INTO A COMA, HER FATE HANGING IN THE BALANCE FOR SO LONG...!







THAT WAS THE STRAW THAT BROKE THE CAMEL'S BACK, EVENTUALLY CAUSING HIM TO WITHDRAW HIMSELF-- QUESTIONING HIS LIFE-- NOT ONLY AS A HERO, BUT AS A MAN AS WELL!

FOR A SHORT TIME, HE TURNED HIS BACK ON HIS LIFE, ABANDONED HIS HUMANITY-- WRAPPING HIMSELF UP IN HIS SORROWS AND FRUSTRATIONS--



--ONLY TO EMERGE MORE CERTAIN AND CONFIDENT IN WHO HE WAS AND WHAT HIS LIFE MEANT!!

AND HE WONDERS... WAS THIS LIFE'S WAY OF TAUNTING HIM... TEASING HIM WITH THE HORRIBLE TRUTH THAT LOOMED IN HIS FUTURE?

HE REMEMBERS MEETING BEN REILLY ON THE HOSPITAL ROOF...



...HOW HIS ERRANT "CLONE," SHARING THE SAME MEMORIES AND EMOTIONS AS HIM, WAS DRAWN BACK TO NEW YORK TO BE AT THE SIDE OF HIS DYING AUNT.

AND BEN WAS DRAWN TO THE NIGHT AS WELL--

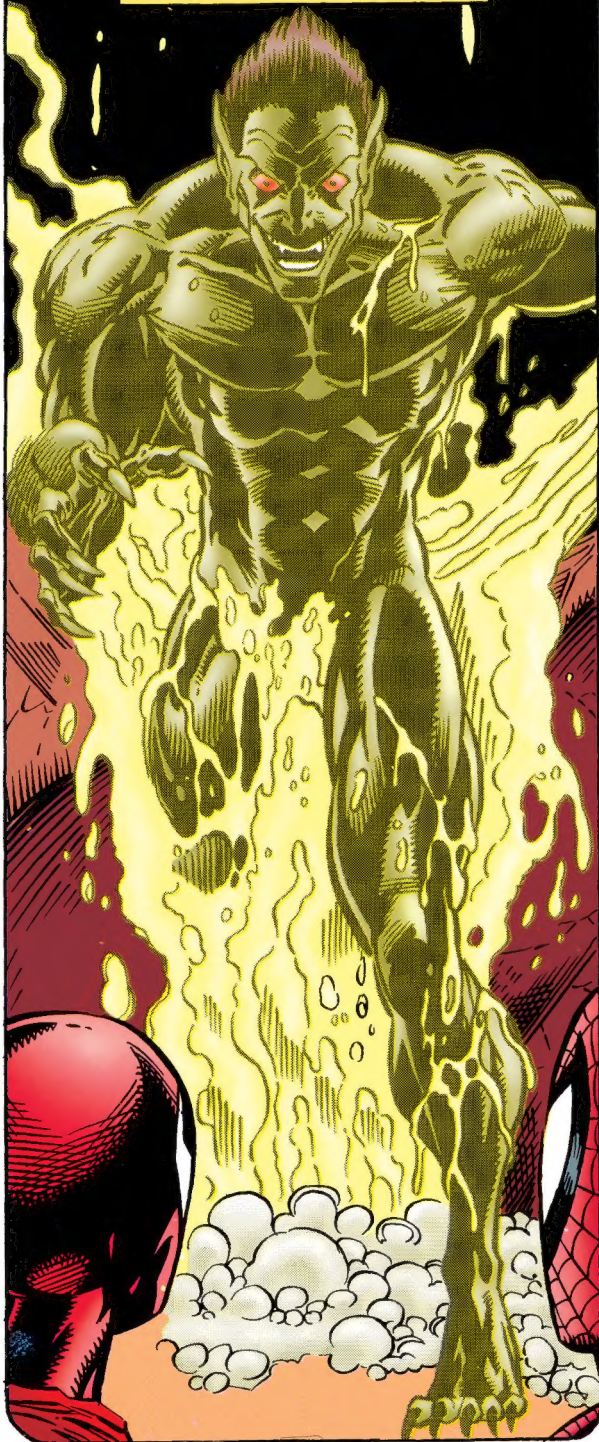
--SOON ESTABLISHING HIMSELF AS THE WEB-SLINGING SCARLET SPIDER!!



UNSETTLED AS HE WAS AT HIS "CLONE'S" RETURN, BOTH OF THEM WERE SOON SHOCKED AT THE ALL-TOO-COINCIDENTAL REAPPEARANCE OF THE INSANELY CUNNING **JACKAL--**

--WHO HAD RE-CREATED HIMSELF TO HIS OWN STANDARDS OF GENETIC SUPERIORITY, AND WAS EAGER TO INSINUATE HIMSELF INTO THEIR LIVES ONCE MORE!!!

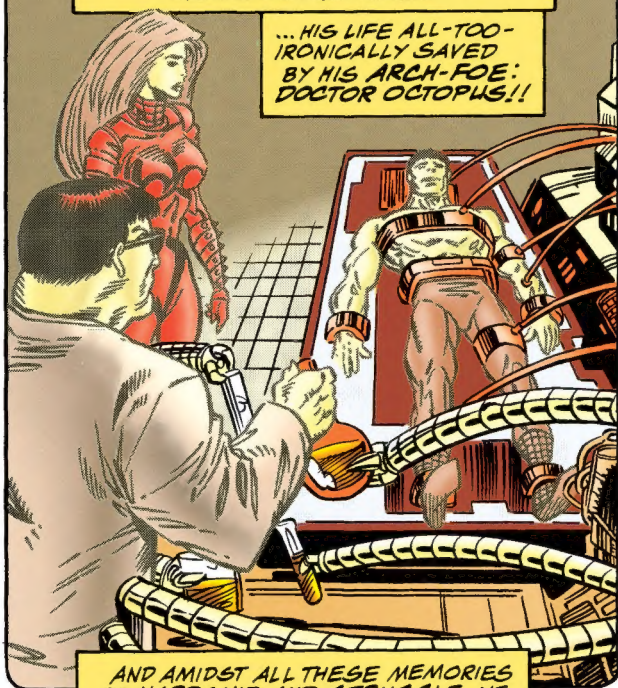
IN BATTLING THE JACKAL TOGETHER, HE AND BEN FORMED THE FIRST THREADS OF THE BOND THEY WOULD LATER SHARE.



HE THINKS OF THE IRONY, THAT ONCE HE HAD FINALLY EMBRACED HIS LIFE AGAIN--HOW HE SUDDENLY FOUND THAT LIFE THREATENED...

...BY A DEADLY EXPERIMENTAL VIRUS INTRODUCED INTO HIS SYSTEM BY THE INSIDIOUS VULTURE...

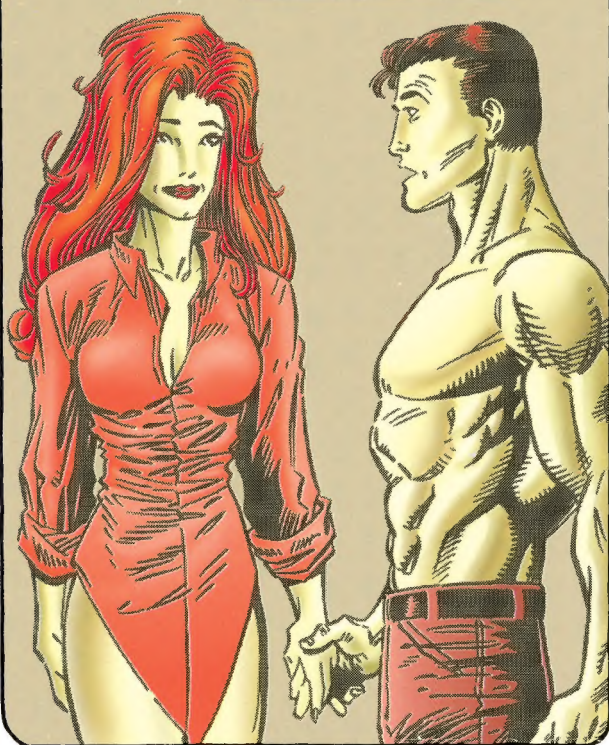
...HIS LIFE ALL-TOO-IRONICALLY SAVED BY HIS ARCH-FOE: DOCTOR OCTOPUS!!



AND AMIDST ALL THESE MEMORIES OF HARDSHIP AND STRUGGLE, HE REMEMBERS ONE MOMENT IN HIS LIFE FILLED WITH THE BLINDING BRIGHT WHITE LIGHT OF JOY!!--

--WHEN MARY JANE ANNOUNCED THAT THEY WERE GOING TO HAVE A--

BUT HIS TROUBLED MIND WILL LET HIM GO NO FURTHER.





HE THINKS INSTEAD OF KAINE--  
THE MYSTERIOUS STRANGER WHO  
CONFRONTED HIM, OFFERING PROOF  
THAT HE WAS NOT THE CLONE--

-- MAKING PETER CONSIDER,  
FOR THE FIRST TIME, THE  
POSSIBILITY THAT HE WAS...!!

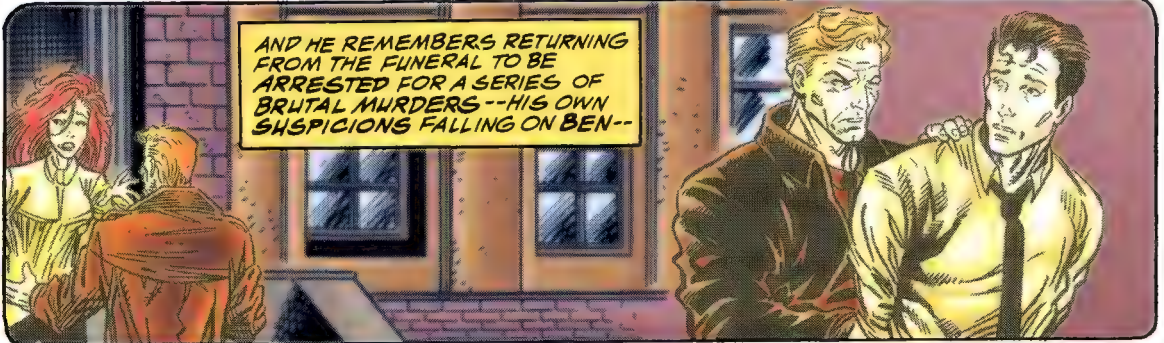


HE THINKS OF  
THE DEATH  
OF HIS AUNT  
MAY--

THE FEELING OF  
SADNESS THAT  
ENVELOPED HIM  
BELIEVING THAT HE  
WOULD BE LOST  
WITHOUT HER IN  
HIS WORLD.



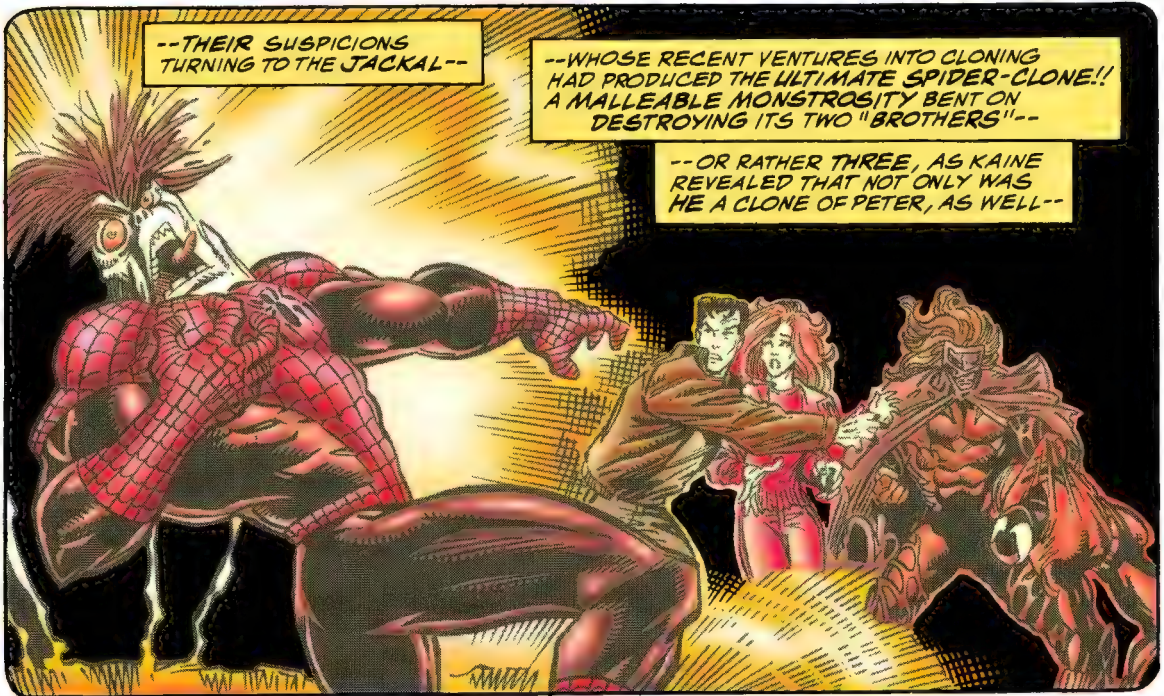
AND HE REMEMBERS RETURNING  
FROM THE FUNERAL TO BE  
ARRESTED FOR A SERIES OF  
BRUTAL MURDERS--HIS OWN  
SUSPICIONS FALLING ON BEN--



--THEIR SUSPICIONS  
TURNING TO THE JACKAL--

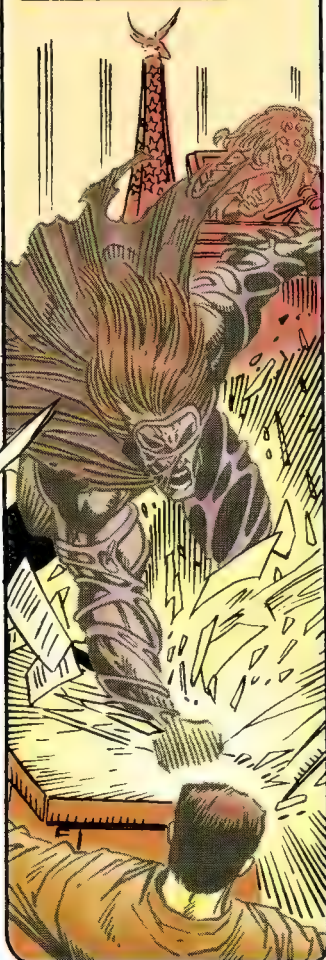
--WHOSE RECENT VENTURES INTO CLONING  
HAD PRODUCED THE ULTIMATE SPIDER-CLONE!!  
A MALLEABLE MONSTROSITY BENT ON  
DESTROYING ITS TWO "BROTHERS"--

--OR RATHER THREE, AS KAINE  
REVEALED THAT NOT ONLY WAS  
HE A CLONE OF PETER, AS WELL--

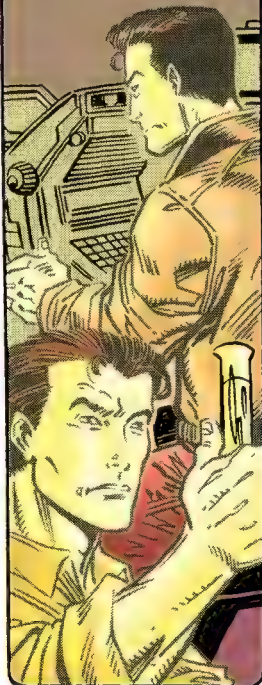




--BUT ALSO THE  
KILLER BEING  
SOUGHT BY THE  
LAW!!!



CONCERNED FOR  
THE FATE OF HIS  
BABY, HE AND  
BEN BEGAN  
CONDUCTING  
GENETIC TESTS  
ON THEIR OWN  
UNIQUE BLOOD  
AND TISSUE  
SAMPLES--



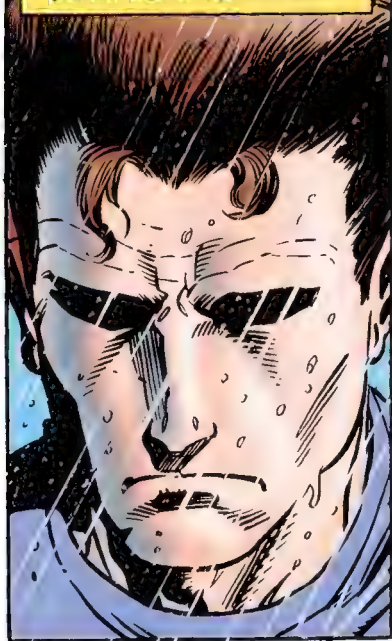
-- ONLY TO BE COMPLETELY  
DEVASTATED BY THEIR  
FINAL CONCLUSION:

BEN WAS THE ORIGINAL--  
AND HE--PETER--WAS--

--A  
CLONE!



HE WISHES THAT THIS WAS  
A DREAM--THAT THIS WOULD  
TURN OUT TO BE ONE OF THE  
JACKAL'S TRICKS-- ONE  
OF HIS TWISTED  
MANIPULATIVE GAMES--



--BUT HE  
KNOWS--

--IN THAT HOLLOW,  
EMPTY PLACE HE  
USED TO CALL HIS  
HEART--



--HE KNOWS  
IT'S TRUE.





A dramatic comic book panel showing Spider-Man in his red and blue suit clinging to the side of a tall building. He is looking down at three other Spider-Man clones who are falling away from the building in a vertical line. The clones are in various poses of falling, with their arms and legs outstretched. The background shows a cityscape with other buildings.

C'MON, PETER--  
WHERE ARE YOU?!

I NEED TO FIND YOU--  
NEED TO TALK TO YOU--  
NEED TO TELL YOU...  
TELL YOU WHAT?

WHAT COULD I POSSIBLY SAY  
THAT WOULD MAKE HIM FEEL  
BETTER?! THAT IF THERE  
WERE ANY WAY I COULD  
TRADE PLACES WITH HIM,  
I WOULD?!

THAT I'D SPENT YEARS  
BELIEVING I WAS THE  
CLONE, THAT I'D  
ACCEPTED IT, LEARNED  
TO LIVE WITH IT?!!

WOULD HE THINK  
THAT SOUNDED AS  
CONDESCENDING  
AS I DO...?

BUT WHAT  
DO I SAY?

PETER, I KNOW HOW YOU  
FEEL--BUT DON'T START  
BELIEVING THAT YOUR  
WHOLE LIFE HAS BEEN  
A LIE...





...OR IS IT...?!

BUT, NO...

ON THIS ONE, I'M SURE-- SOMEWHERE DOWN INSIDE OF ME, I CAN TELL-- THIS IS THE TRUTH!!

BUT, YOU'VE DONE YOUR DAMAGE, YOU GRINNING GARGOYLE!! JERKING US AROUND--

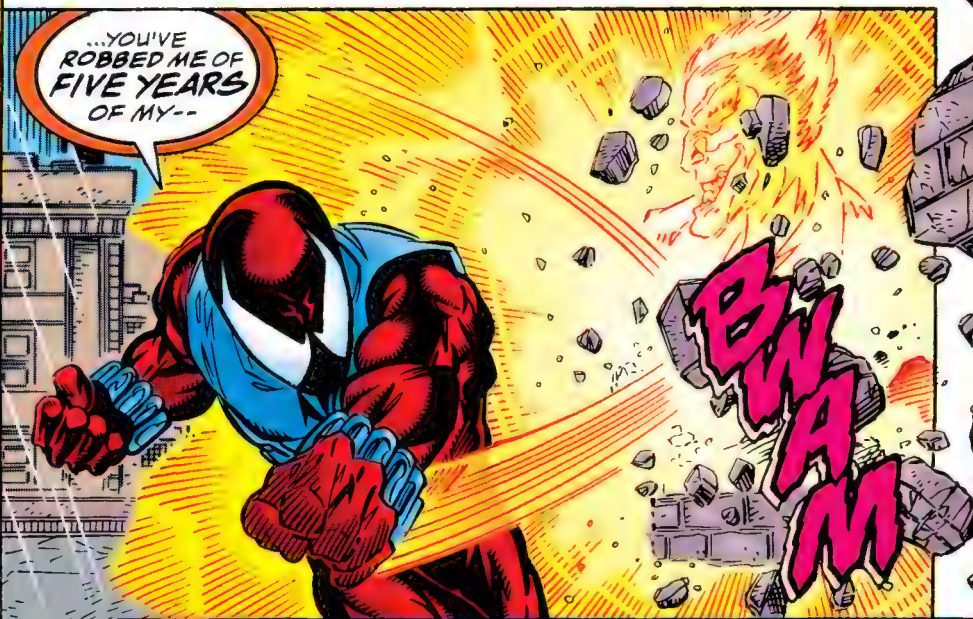
HOW ARE WE TO KNOW THAT THIS ISN'T JUST ONE MORE OF THE JACKAL'S TWISTED GAMES...?

--MANIPULATING US LIKE LITTLE PLAYING PIECES IN YOUR OWN PRIVATE GAME!!

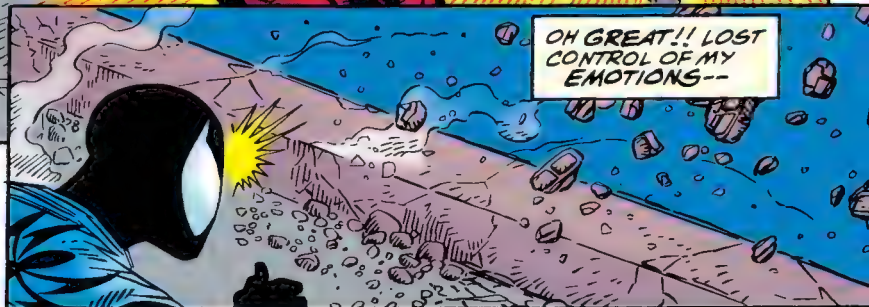


YOU'VE HURT PETER... TERRIBLY AND... AND...

...YOU'VE ROBBED ME OF FIVE YEARS OF MY--

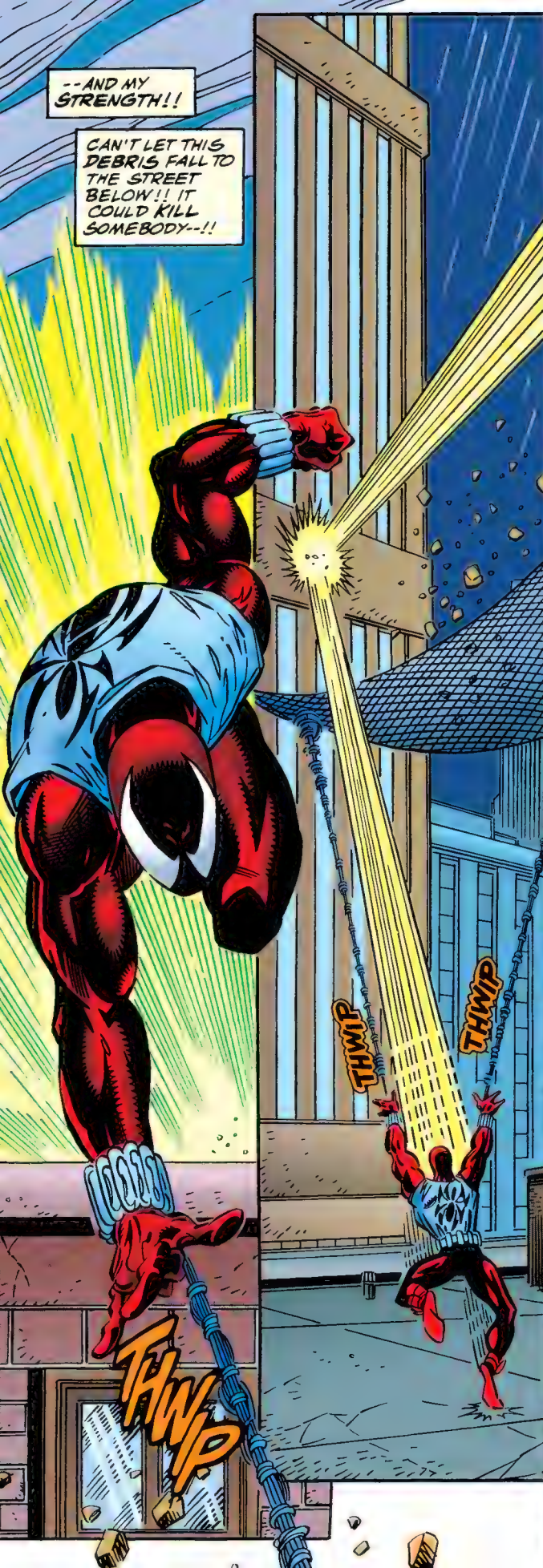


**BWAM**



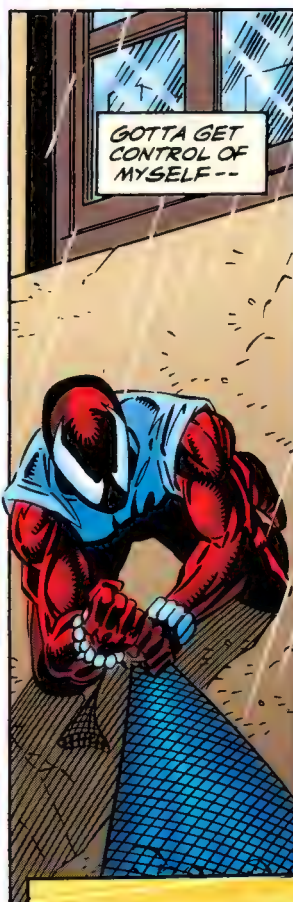
OH GREAT!! LOST CONTROL OF MY EMOTIONS--



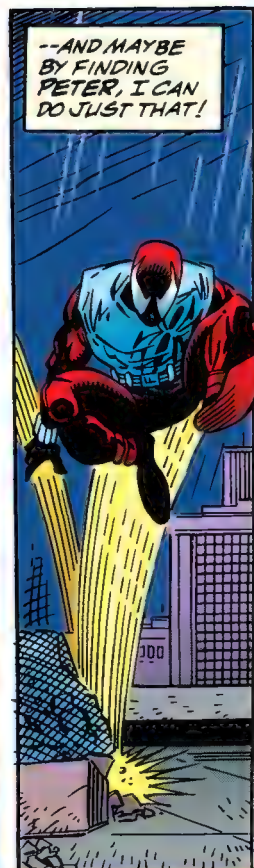


--AND MY STRENGTH!!

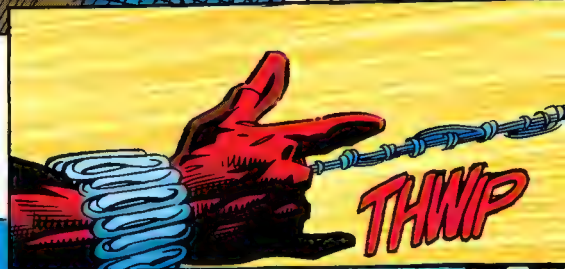
CAN'T LET THIS DEBRIS FALL TO THE STREET BELOW!! IT COULD KILL SOMEBODY--!!



GOTTA GET CONTROL OF MYSELF--



--AND MAYBE BY FINDING PETER, I CAN DO JUST THAT!



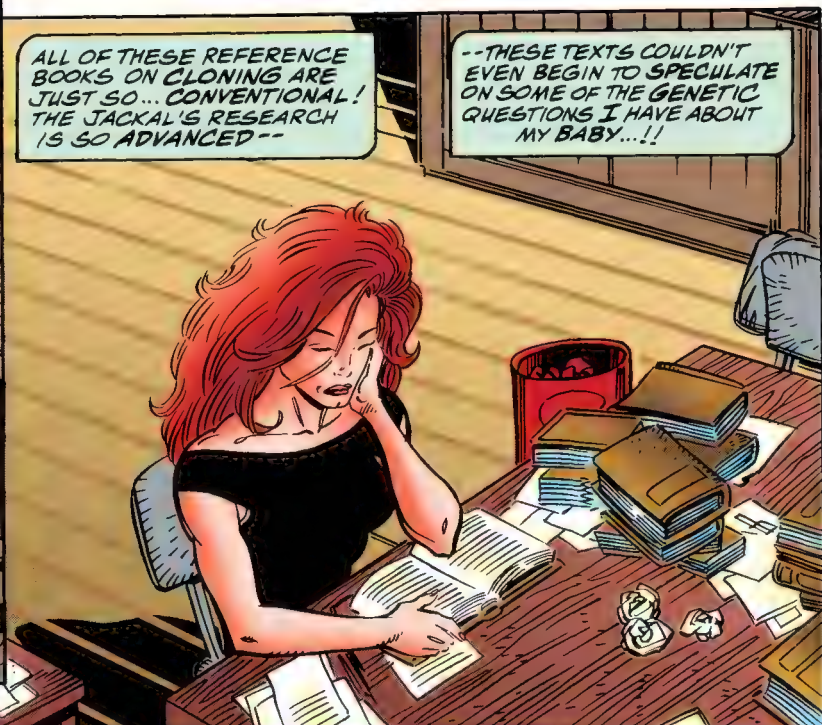




THIS IS SO FRUSTRATING...!

ALL OF THESE REFERENCE BOOKS ON CLONING ARE JUST SO... CONVENTIONAL! THE JACKAL'S RESEARCH IS SO ADVANCED--

--THESE TEXTS COULDN'T EVEN BEGIN TO SPECULATE ON SOME OF THE GENETIC QUESTIONS I HAVE ABOUT MY BABY...!!

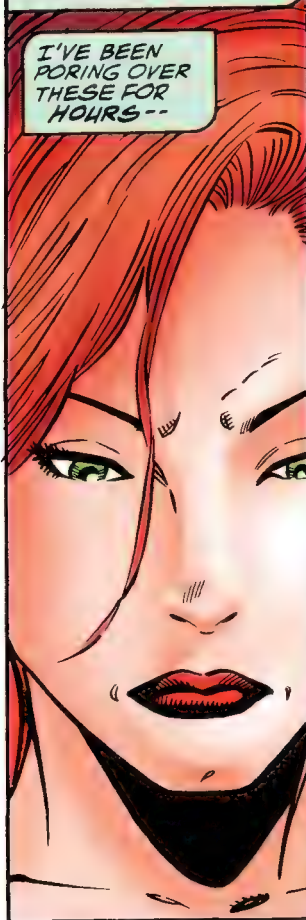


AS THE CHILD OF A CLONE, COULD THERE BE SOME SORT OF GENETIC DAMAGE...?! COMPLICATIONS WITH THE PREGNANCY...?!

--AND I STILL COME UP WITH NOTHING!!!

ADMIT IT, MJ--YOU'VE ALSO BURIED YOURSELF IN THESE BOOKS SO YOU CAN KEEP YOUR MIND OFF--

**KREEEEK!**



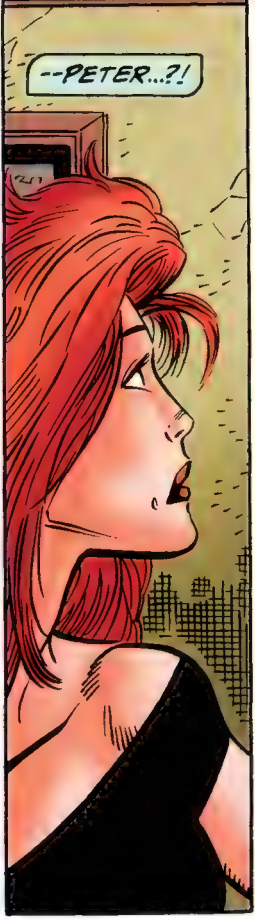
I'VE BEEN PORING OVER THESE FOR HOURS--



**TUMP**



**SMOOOSH**



--PETER...?!



THAT SOUND CAME  
FROM UP IN PETER'S  
LAB-- MAYBE HE'S  
FINALLY COME BACK!  
I... I HOPE SO...

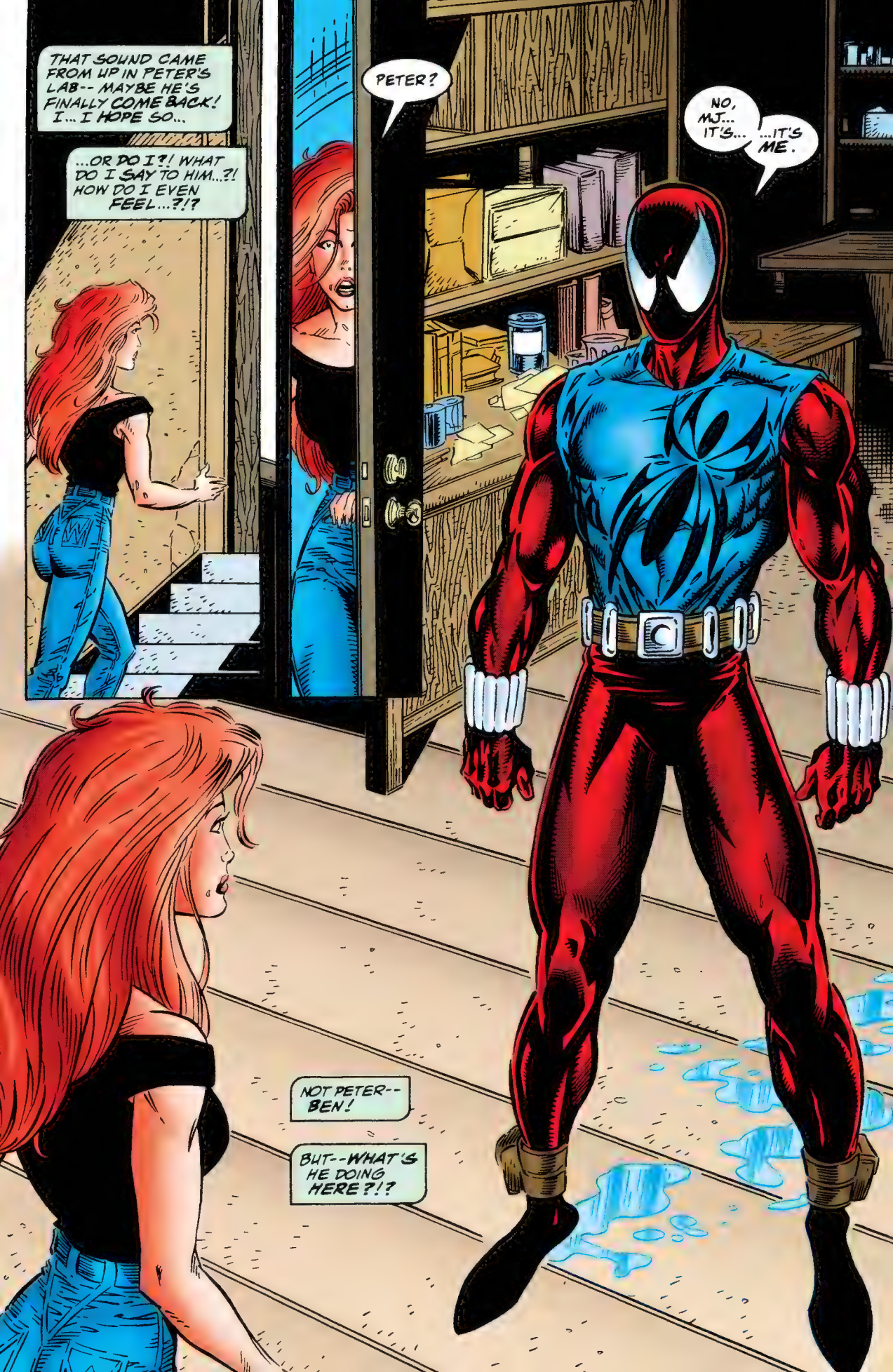
...OR DO I?! WHAT  
DO I SAY TO HIM...?!  
HOW DO I EVEN  
FEEL...?!?

PETER?

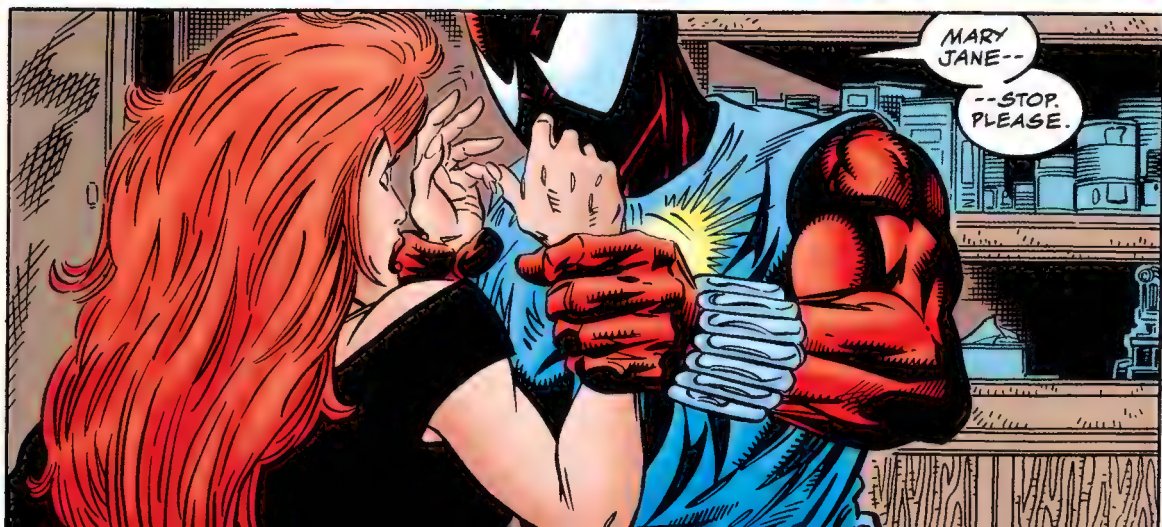
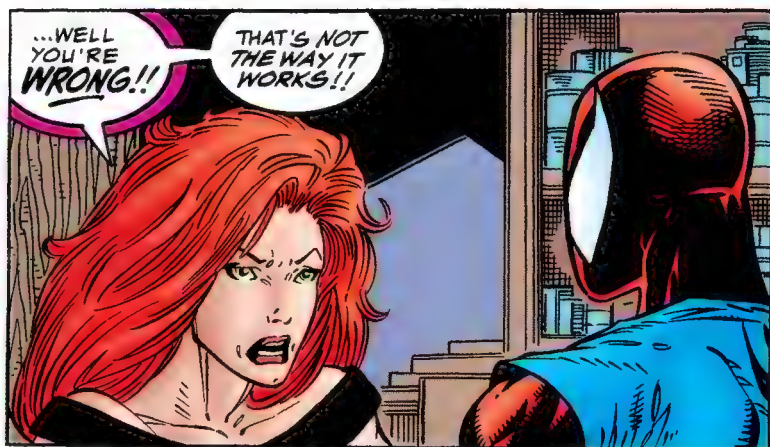
NO,  
MJ...  
IT'S...  
...IT'S  
ME.

NOT PETER--  
BEN!

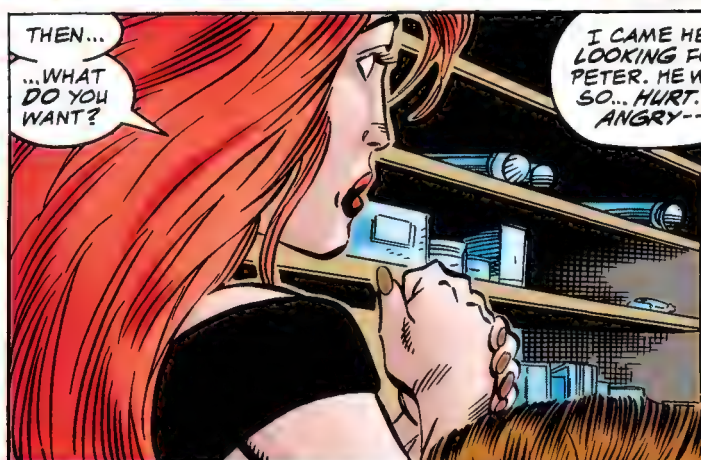
BUT--WHAT'S  
HE DOING  
HERE?!?













SRRINGVILLE--

THIS WAS A QUICK KILL, DON--

--MY GUESS IS THAT THIS THING ENTERS AND THEN SHUTS DOWN THE RESPIRATORY SYSTEM IN JUST UNDER THIRTY SECONDS.

THE EFFECTS ARE WIDESPREAD-- WE LOST THE WHOLE TOWN--

--BUT ED CAN'T PICK UP A TRACE OF IT ANYWHERE.

WELL, AT LEAST THERE'S NO INCUBATION PERIOD-- WE CAN TRACK IT. BUT THAT LEAVES US WITH THE REAL QUESTION...

...WHERE THE BLAZES DID THIS BUG COME FROM?!!

MEANWHILE, ON A PARKWAY MILES AWAY--

--LY SWEEPING THE "HOT SPOT" GENERAL, BUT THE PROGNOSIS IS NEGATIVE...

THE VIRUS INSTIGATES COMPLETE RESPIRATORY ARREST WITHIN :KRRRK:-- CAPTAIN? THIS IS UNIT THREE, SIR--

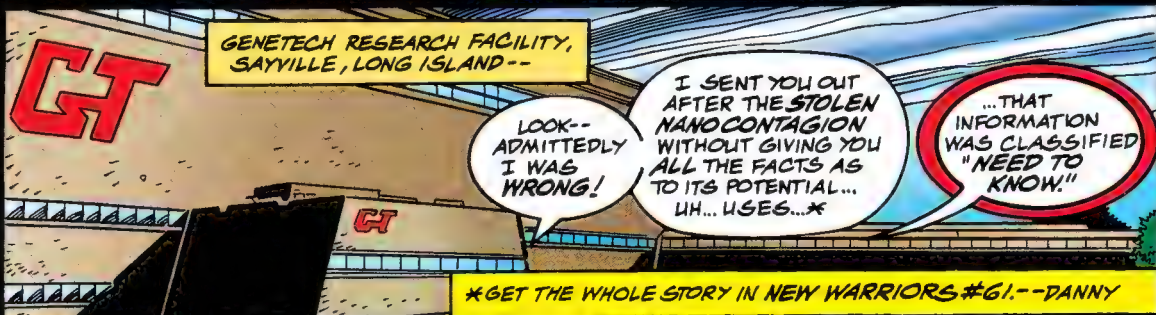
-- WE'VE GOT ONE, SIR--

--WE'VE GOT A SURVIVOR!!

PULL OFF AT THE NEXT EXIT, PETER--

--IT LOOKS LIKE WE MISSED ONE!!





GENETECH RESEARCH FACILITY,  
SAYVILLE, LONG ISLAND--

LOOK--  
ADMITTEDLY  
I WAS  
WRONG!

I SENT YOU OUT  
AFTER THE STOLEN  
NANO CONTAGION  
WITHOUT GIVING YOU  
ALL THE FACTS AS  
TO ITS POTENTIAL...  
UH... USES...\*

...THAT  
INFORMATION  
WAS CLASSIFIED  
"NEED TO  
KNOW."

\*GET THE WHOLE STORY IN NEW WARRIORS #61.--DANNY

AND WE  
NEEDED  
TO  
KNOW!!

YOU PUT US IN A DANGEROUS  
SITUATION, ROSEN--WITHOUT  
THE INFORMATION WE SHOULD  
HAVE HAD!!

AND NOW, WE FIND  
THERE COULD BE SOME  
CONNECTION BETWEEN  
THE MISSING ISOTOPE  
AND THIS TRAGEDY IN  
PENNSYLVANIA...?

SO THEN TELL US  
WHY YOU NEED THE  
NEW WARRIORS TO  
GO TO SPRINGVILLE,  
MR. ROSEN.

WELL, THERE'S A...  
...UM... SURVIVOR  
THERE WHO... UM...  
HAS BEGUN TO  
DEMONSTRATE SOME  
RATHER STRANGE...  
UH... POWERS.



GREAT. SO, I'M SUPPOSED  
TO PUT THE TEAM IN DANGER  
FOR YOU AGAIN, AND HOPE  
THAT YOU'RE TELLING ME  
THE TRUTH...?!

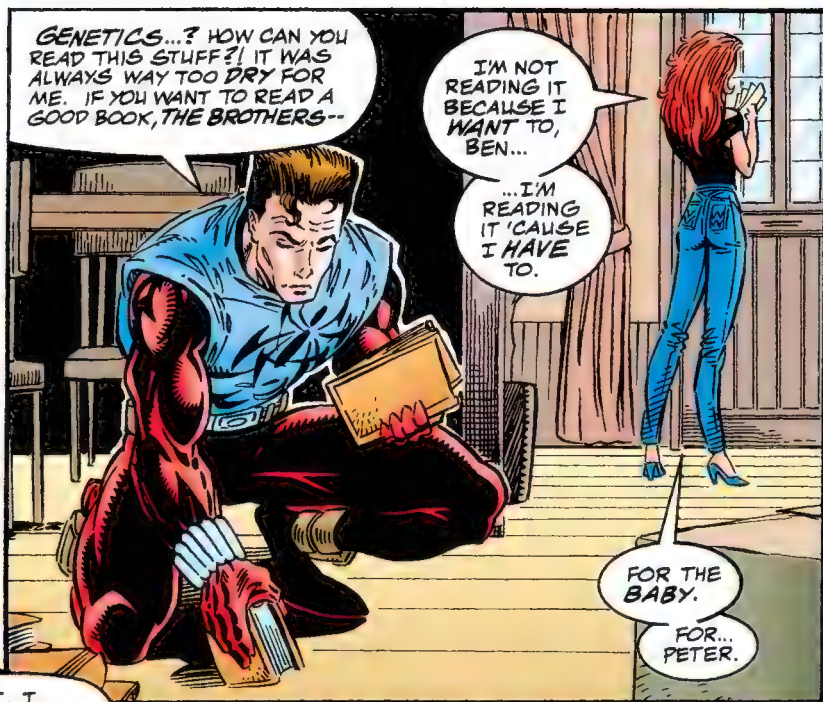


YOU'RE RIGHT--  
AND I APOLOGIZE.  
THERE'S NO REASON  
WHY YOU SHOULD BE  
KEPT OUT OF THE  
LOOP--!





BACK AT THE  
BROWNSTONE--



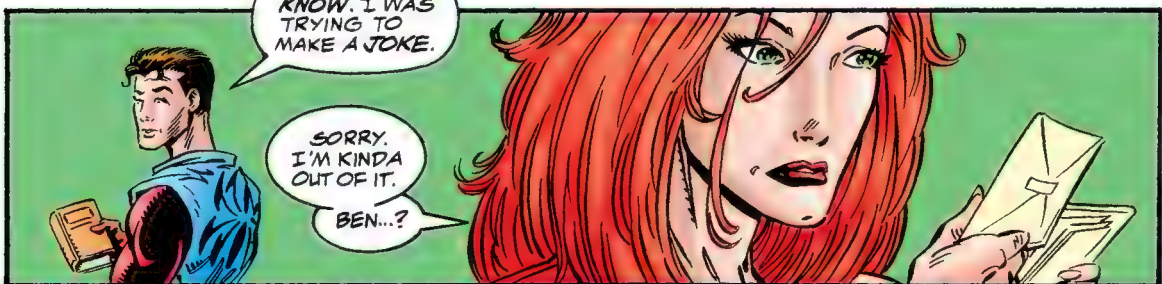
GENETICS...? HOW CAN YOU  
READ THIS STUFF?! IT WAS  
ALWAYS WAY TOO DRY FOR  
ME. IF YOU WANT TO READ A  
GOOD BOOK, THE BROTHERS--

I'M NOT  
READING IT  
BECAUSE I  
WANT TO,  
BEN...

...I'M  
READING  
IT 'CAUSE  
I HAVE  
TO.

FOR THE  
BABY.

FOR...  
PETER.



I...I  
KNOW. I WAS  
TRYING TO  
MAKE A JOKE.

SORRY.  
I'M KINDA  
OUT OF IT.  
BEN...?



THIS POSTCARD  
CAME HERE...

...BUT IT'S  
ADDRESSED  
TO YOU!



THE POSTMARK IS  
SPRINGVILLE, PA.  
ISN'T THAT WHERE--

YEAH. AND I BET  
I KNOW JUST  
WHO THIS IS  
FROM...

WISH YOU  
COULD HAVE  
BEEN HERE...!

WISH YOU  
COULD HAVE  
BEEN HERE...!



A MAXIMUM SECURITY HOLDING  
PEN ON THE LOWER EAST SIDE--

--SMOOTH TRANSFER,  
AND TO BE ADVISED  
THAT THE PUNISHER HAS  
BEEN SEEN IN THE  
CITY.

HE LAUGHS INWARDLY AT  
THEIR FALSE BRAVADO--  
THE BLIND CONFIDENCE  
THEY HAVE IN THEIR  
MEAGER RESTRAINTS--

AND SUDDENLY--HE IS  
IMPALED WITH PAIN--

YYYARRRGHH!

--AS ANOTHER  
VISION--

--IS DRIVEN  
INTO HIS HEAD!!

IT IS THE SAME  
VISION--MARY JANE--  
DEAD--

--HER  
MYSTERIOUS  
KILLER--

--SOMEHOW  
FAMILIAR--

--AND IT IS OVER.

THAT'S ENOUGH  
OF THAT, FREAK!!  
I DON'T KNOW  
WHAT--

HE HAD BEEN  
WAITING--  
AND THE TIME  
HAS COME--

RRRR--

WHOOOM!!



IT TAKES BUT  
A MOMENT--

**FREEZE!**

**HALT  
OR WE'LL  
SHOOT!!**

**B-DOW  
B-DOW**

**THUNK**

**POW!!**

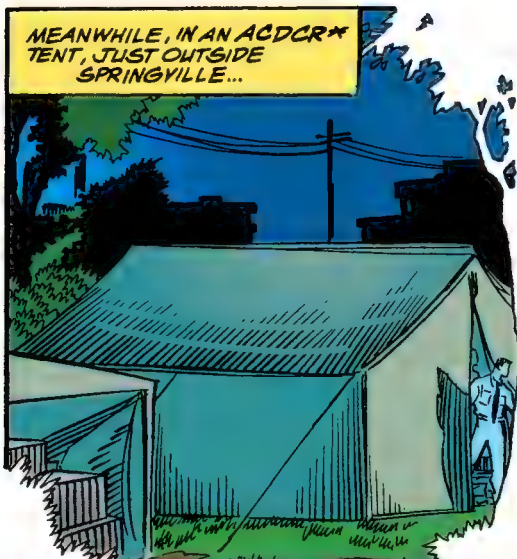
**KRESH!**

--AND HE IS  
GONE!!





MEANWHILE, IN AN ACDCR\*  
TENT, JUST OUTSIDE  
SPRINGVILLE...



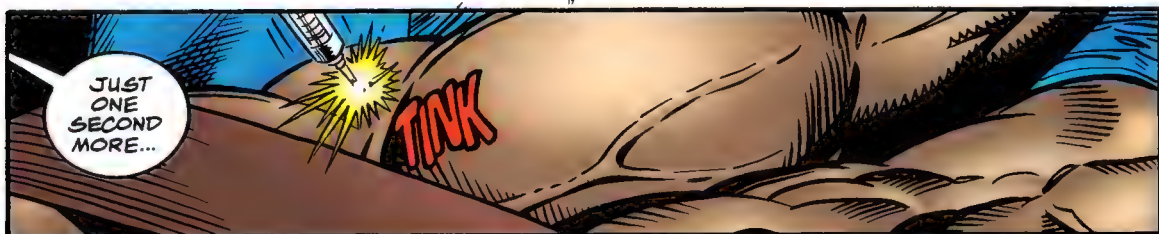
\*ATLANTA CENTER FOR DISEASE  
CONTROL AND RESEARCH.--DANNY

--GET THESE TESTS DONE.  
JUST RESTRAIN HIM LONG  
ENOUGH FOR ME TO GIVE  
HIM THIS SEDATIVE.

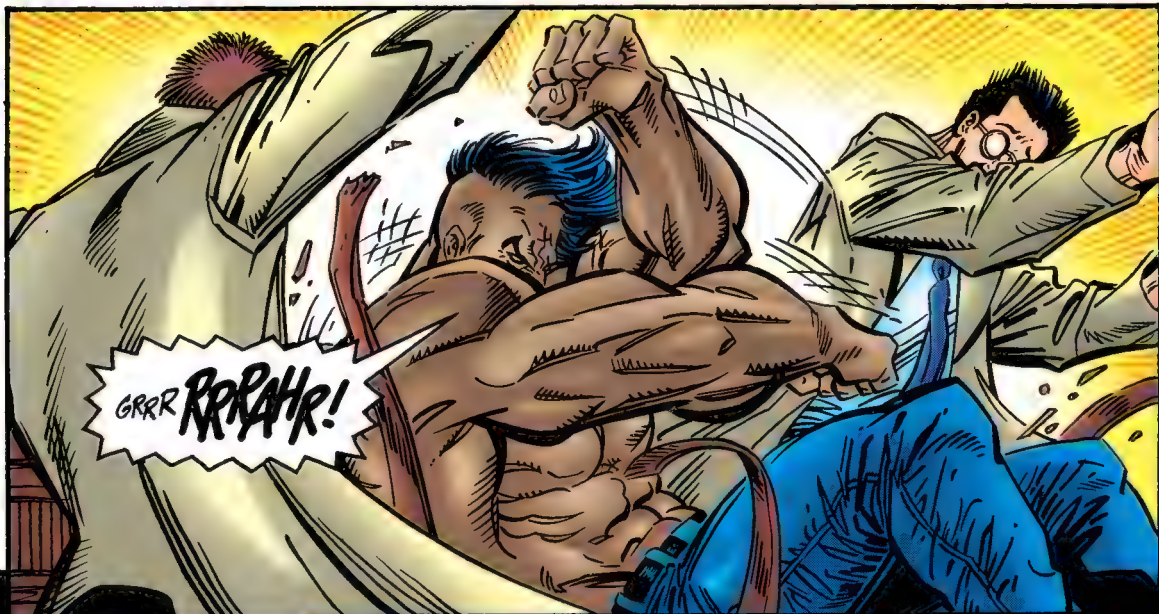


JUST  
ONE  
SECOND  
MORE...

TINK



GRRR RRRRAH!



DON'T LET  
HIM--

--GET  
AWAY.

GREAT.





THERE GOES OUR "SURVIVOR"--  
THE BIRD HAS LEFT THE CAGE!!

THE JACKAL WANTS THAT GUY--  
TO FIND OUT WHY HE WAS  
IMMUNE TO THE VIRUS--

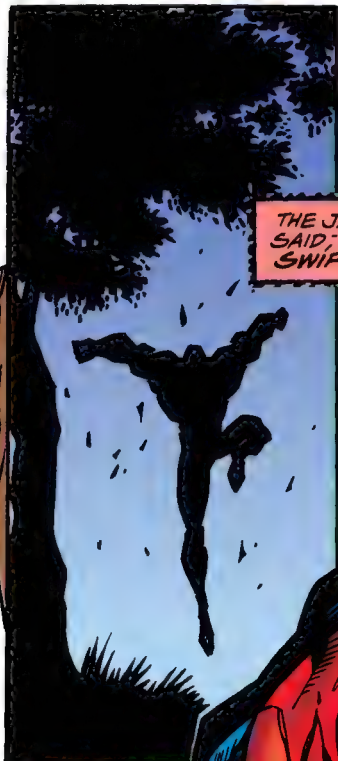
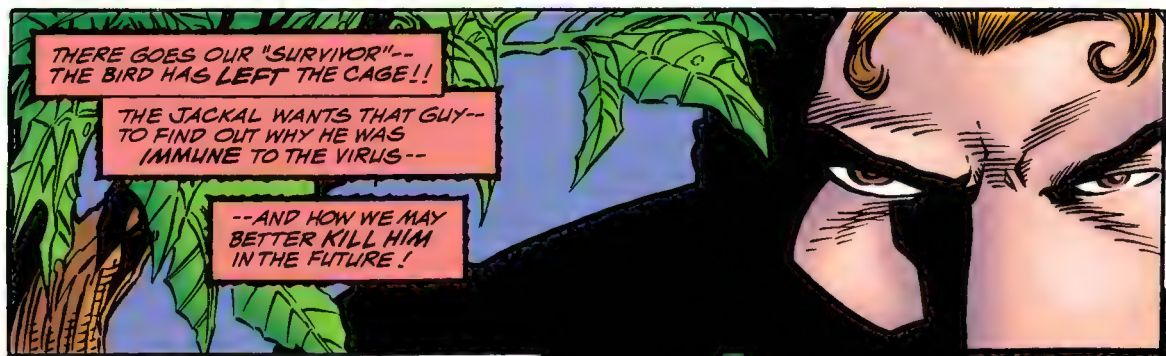
--AND HOW WE MAY  
BETTER KILL HIM  
IN THE FUTURE!

"--AND MOST IMPORTANTLY,  
BE SURE TO MORPH INTO  
SOMETHING REALLY COOL--!"

THE JACKAL  
SAID: "BE  
SWIFT!--

--"BE  
SILENT!--

GOOD ENOUGH,  
"DAD"?

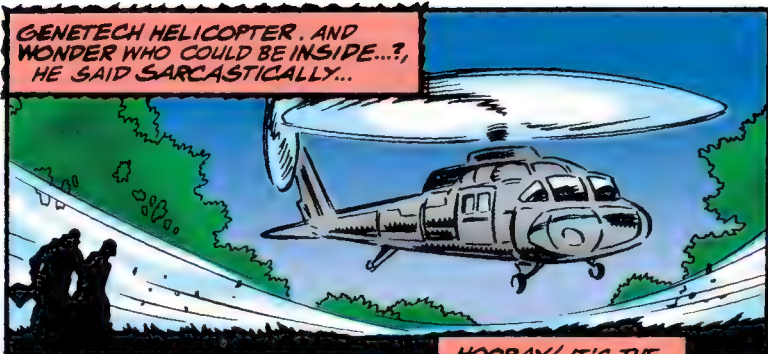




WHUP WHUP WHUP

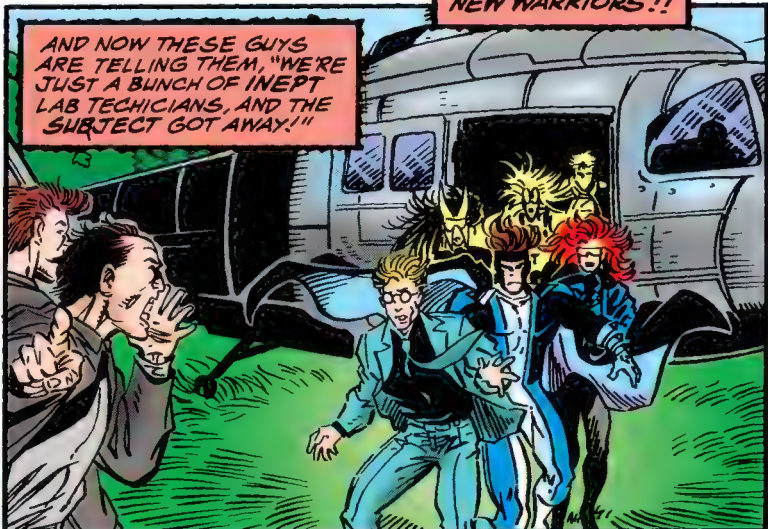
WHUP  
WHUP  
WHUP?

GENETECH HELICOPTER. AND  
WONDER WHO COULD BE INSIDE...?,  
HE SAID SARCASTICALLY...

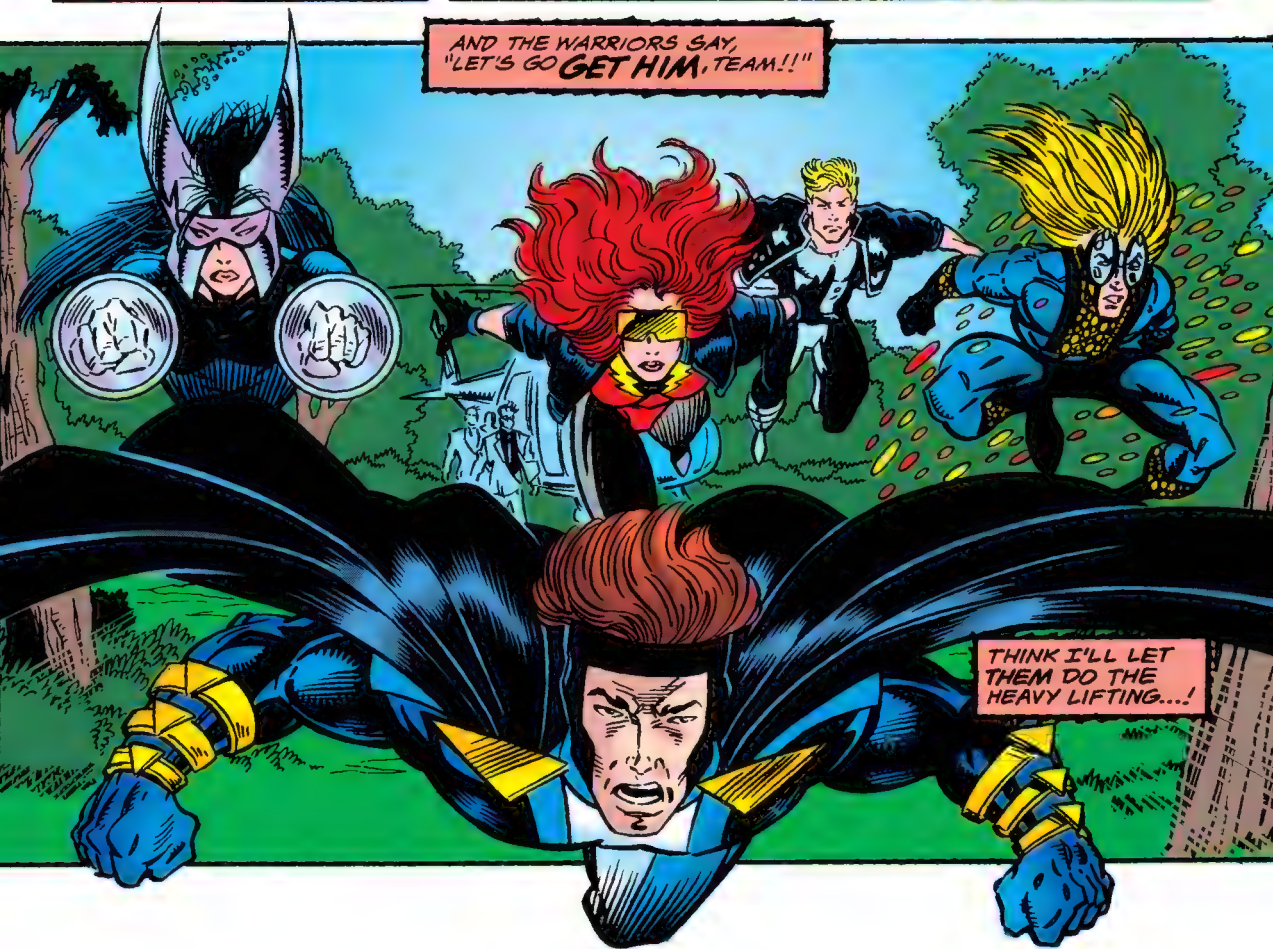


HOORAY! IT'S THE  
NEW WARRIORS !!

AND NOW THESE GUYS  
ARE TELLING THEM, "WE'RE  
JUST A BUNCH OF INEPT  
LAB TECHICIANS, AND THE  
SUBJECT GOT AWAY!!"

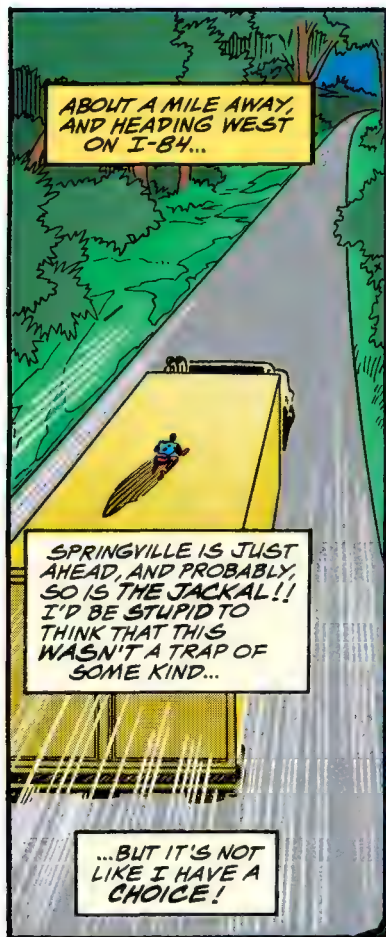


AND THE WARRIORS SAY,  
"LET'S GO **GET HIM**, TEAM!!!"



THINK I'LL LET  
THEM DO THE  
HEAVY LIFTING....!

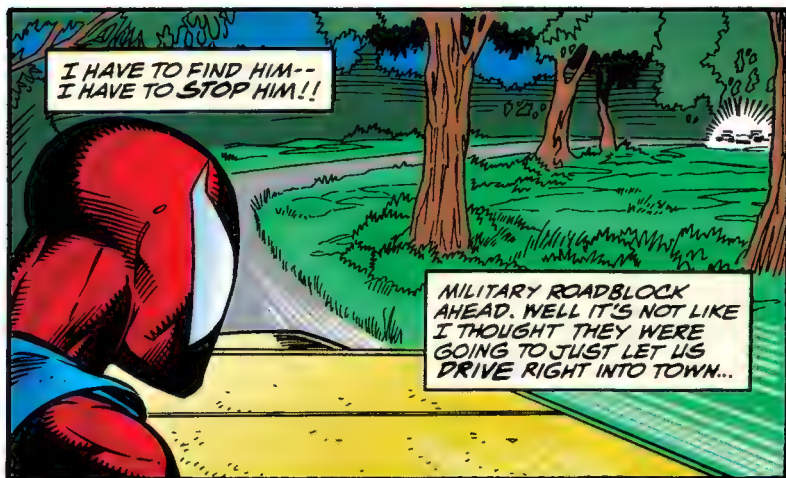




ABOUT A MILE AWAY,  
AND HEADING WEST  
ON I-84...

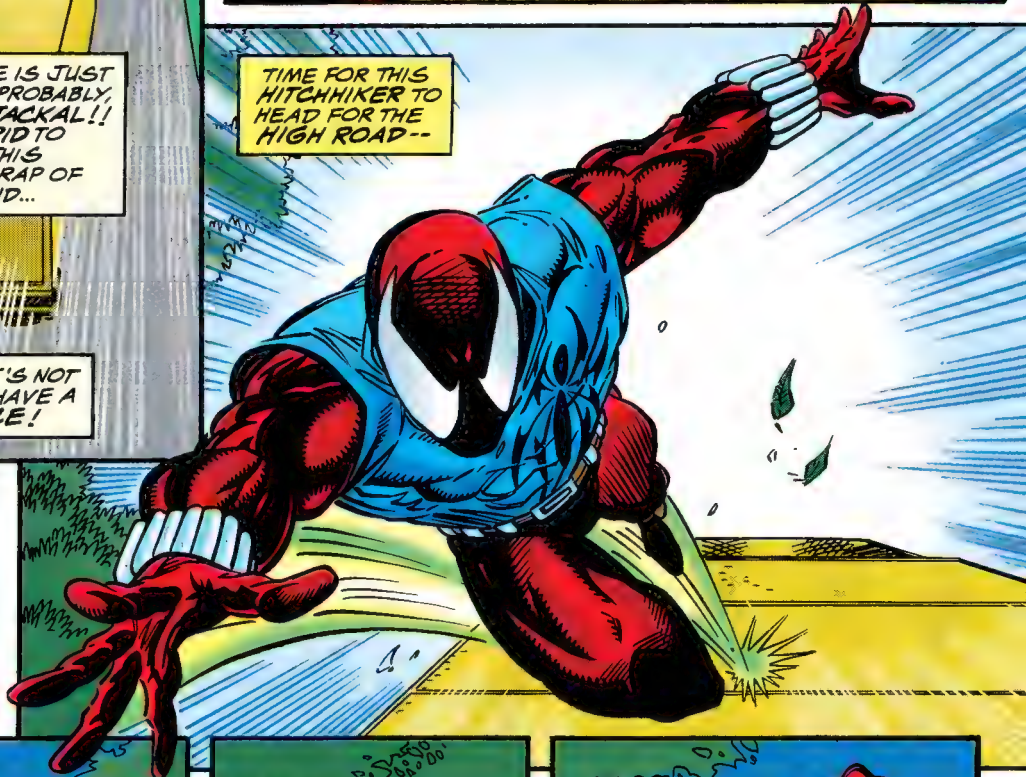
SPRINGVILLE IS JUST  
AHEAD, AND PROBABLY,  
SO IS THE JACKAL!!  
I'D BE STUPID TO  
THINK THAT THIS  
WASN'T A TRAP OF  
SOME KIND...

...BUT IT'S NOT  
LIKE I HAVE A  
CHOICE!

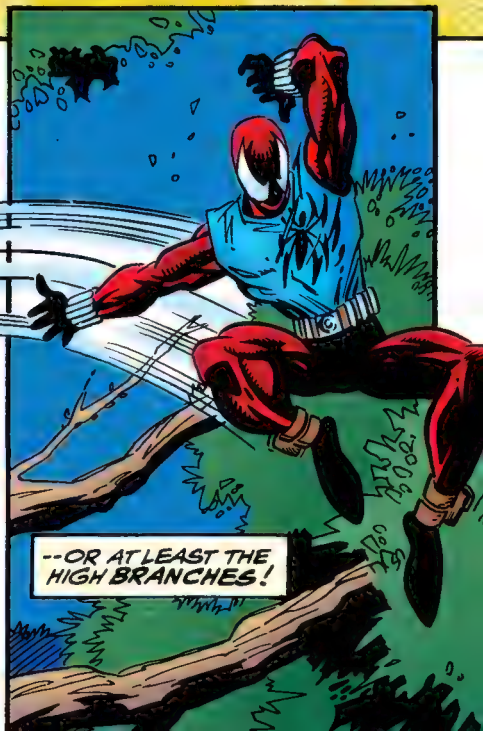
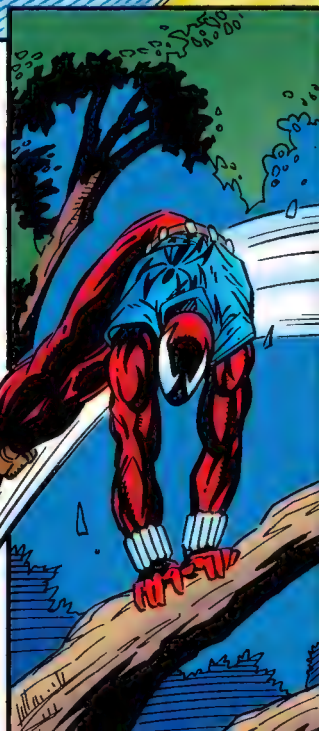


I HAVE TO FIND HIM--  
I HAVE TO STOP HIM!!

MILITARY ROADBLOCK  
AHEAD. WELL IT'S NOT LIKE  
I THOUGHT THEY WERE  
GOING TO JUST LET US  
DRIVE RIGHT INTO TOWN...

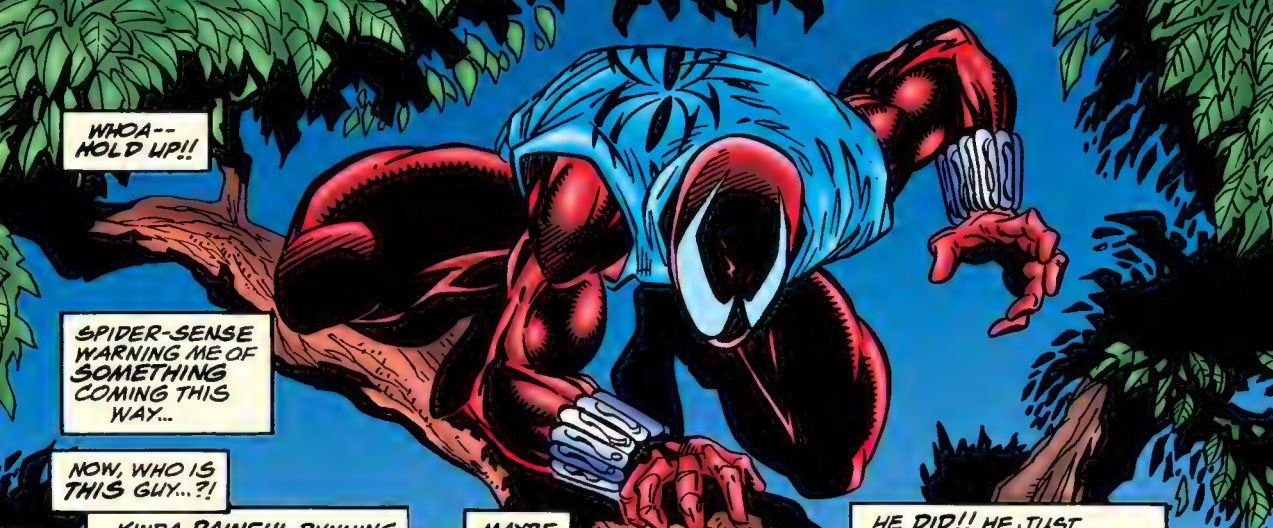


TIME FOR THIS  
HITCHHIKER TO  
HEAD FOR THE  
HIGH ROAD--



--OR AT LEAST THE  
HIGH BRANCHES!





WHOA--  
HOLD UP!!

SPIDER-SENSE  
WARNING ME OF  
SOMETHING  
COMING THIS  
WAY...

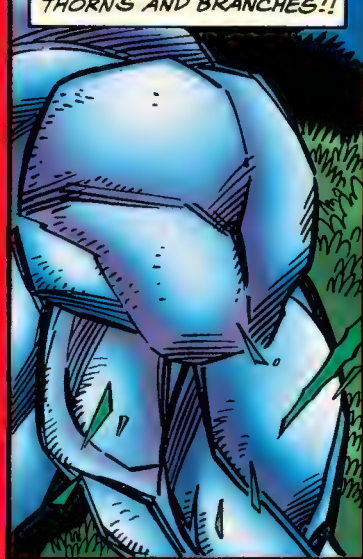
NOW, WHO IS  
THIS GUY...?!

KINDA PAINFUL RUNNING  
THROUGH THE UNDERBRUSH  
HALF-NAKED, ISN'T IT,  
FELLA?

MAYBE  
NOT...!

HOLY COW!  
DID HE JUST--

HE DID!! HE JUST  
CHANGED HIS SKIN--  
MADE IT TOUGH AND  
SCALY TO RESIST THE  
THORNS AND BRANCHES!!



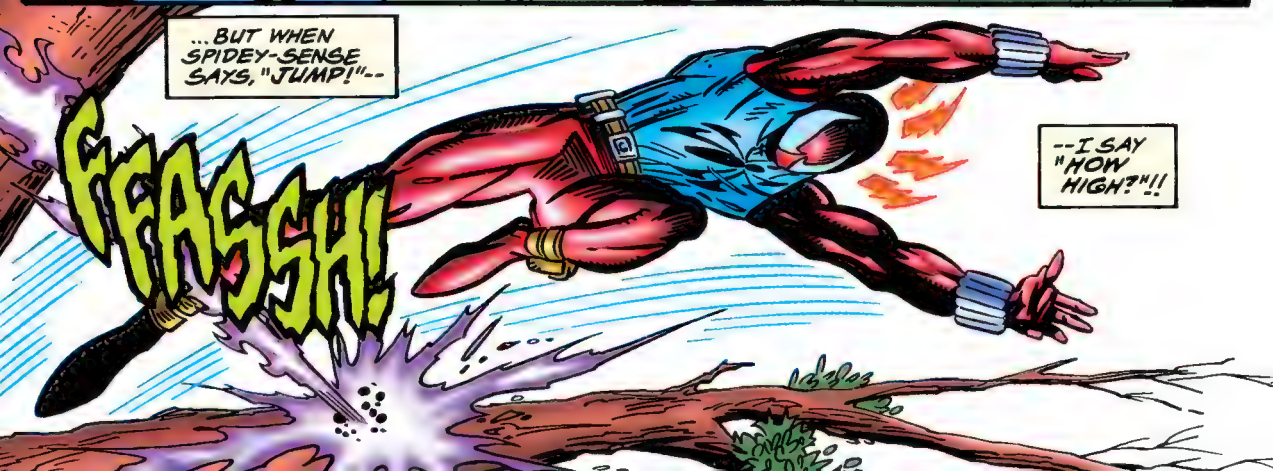
THAT IS  
SO COOL!

THIS GUY DEFINITELY  
BEARS SOME FURTHER  
LOOKING INTO...

...BUT WHEN  
SPIDEY-SENSE  
SAYS, "JUMP!"--

**FEASHH!**

--I SAY  
"HOW  
HIGH?"!!







THERE  
YOU GO,  
JUSTICE!

THIS SPIDER-GUY  
MUST BE WITH THAT  
OTHER SPIDER-GUY  
WHO STOLE THE  
CONTAGION ISOTOPE  
FROM GENETECH!!!

--LET'S  
GET 'IM!!

\*NEW WARRIORS #6! AGAIN.--DANNY

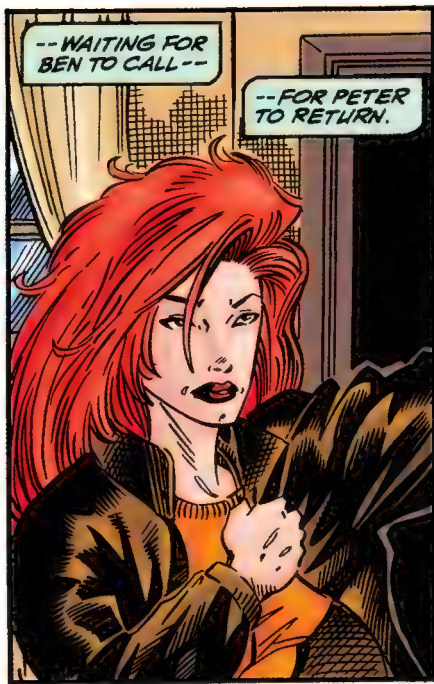
... "OTHER  
SPIDER-GUY...?!!"

UH-OH.





C'MON, MJ-- YOU CAN'T JUST SIT AROUND HERE, WAITING FOR THE PHONE TO RING--



-- WAITING FOR BEN TO CALL --

-- FOR PETER TO RETURN.



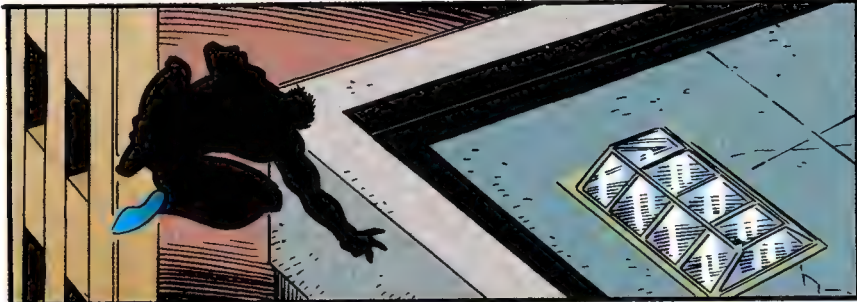
YOU HAVE TOO MUCH TO THINK ABOUT-- SO MUCH TO DO.

WHY DOES LIFE HAVE TO BE SO COMPLICATED...?

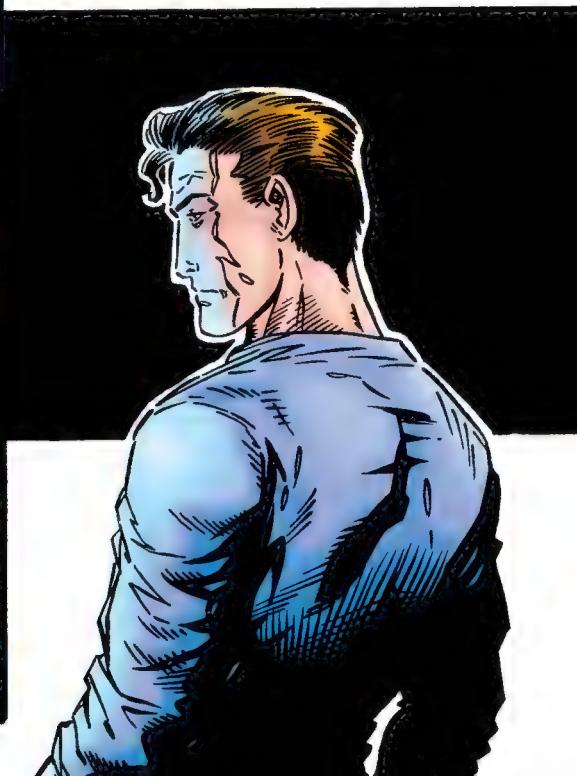
IT SEEMS LIKE EVERY TIME YOU TURN AROUND, YOU'RE STANDING AT A CROSSROADS--



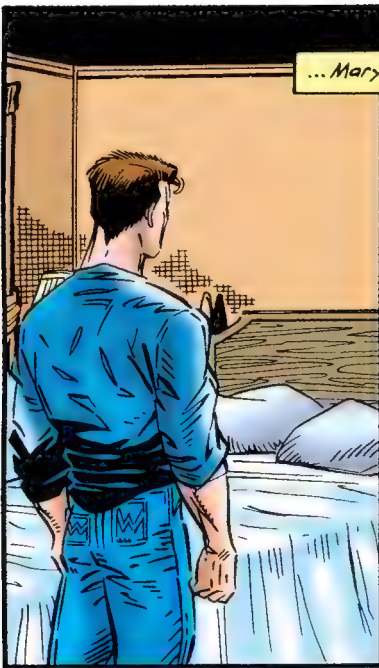
--LOOKING FOR SOME DIRECTION.



I have NO RIGHT to be here. No right to this LIFE-- no right to...



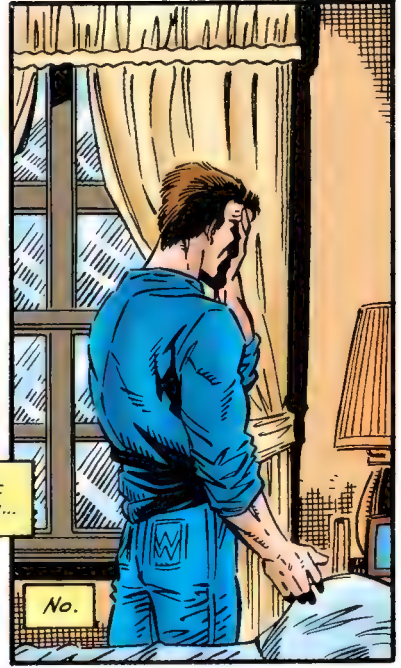




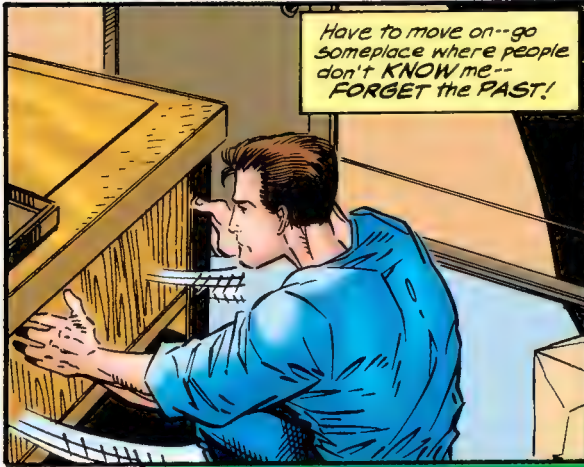
... Mary Jane...



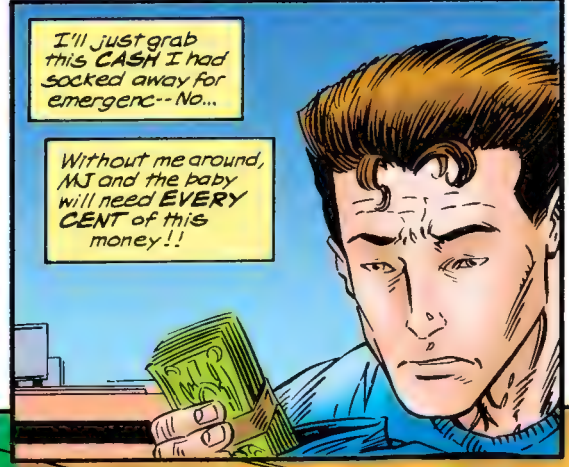
oh god, I  
love you...



No.



Have to move on--go  
someplace where people  
don't **KNOW** me--  
**FORGET** the PAST!



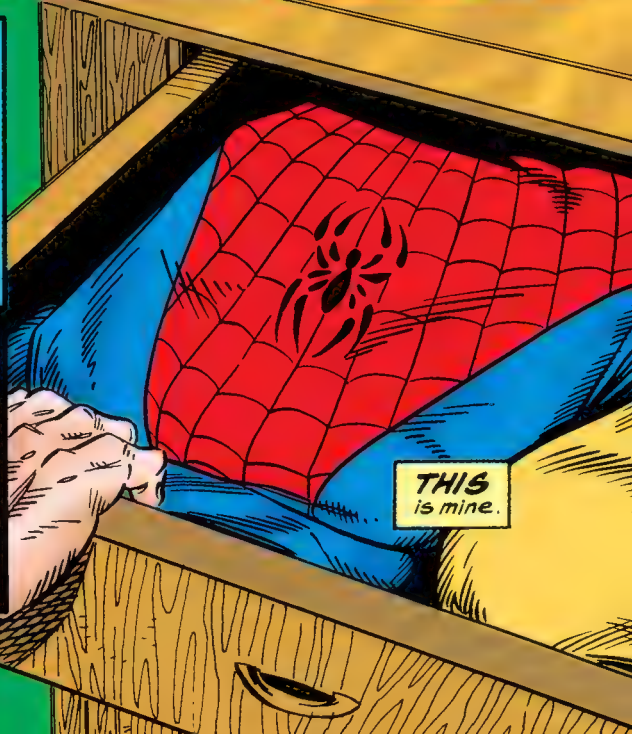
I'll just grab  
this **CASH** I had  
socked away for  
emergenc-- No...

Without me around,  
MJ and the baby  
will need **EVERY**  
**CENT** of this  
money!!



There's **NOTHING**  
here that I can  
take that won't--

No, that's not  
**ENTIRELY** true.



**THIS**  
is mine.





I've **EARNED** it!

I may be a clone  
and not the  
original Peter  
Parker --


--but I  
**AM**  
**SPIDER-MAN!!**












--SO I GUESS I'LL JUST  
HAVE TO TAKE THEM OUT  
OF THE GAME QUICKLY!

AND SINCE THEY  
SEEM TO BE SUCH A  
POLITE AND  
WELL-INTENTIONED  
BUNCH--


FLASH

THWIP



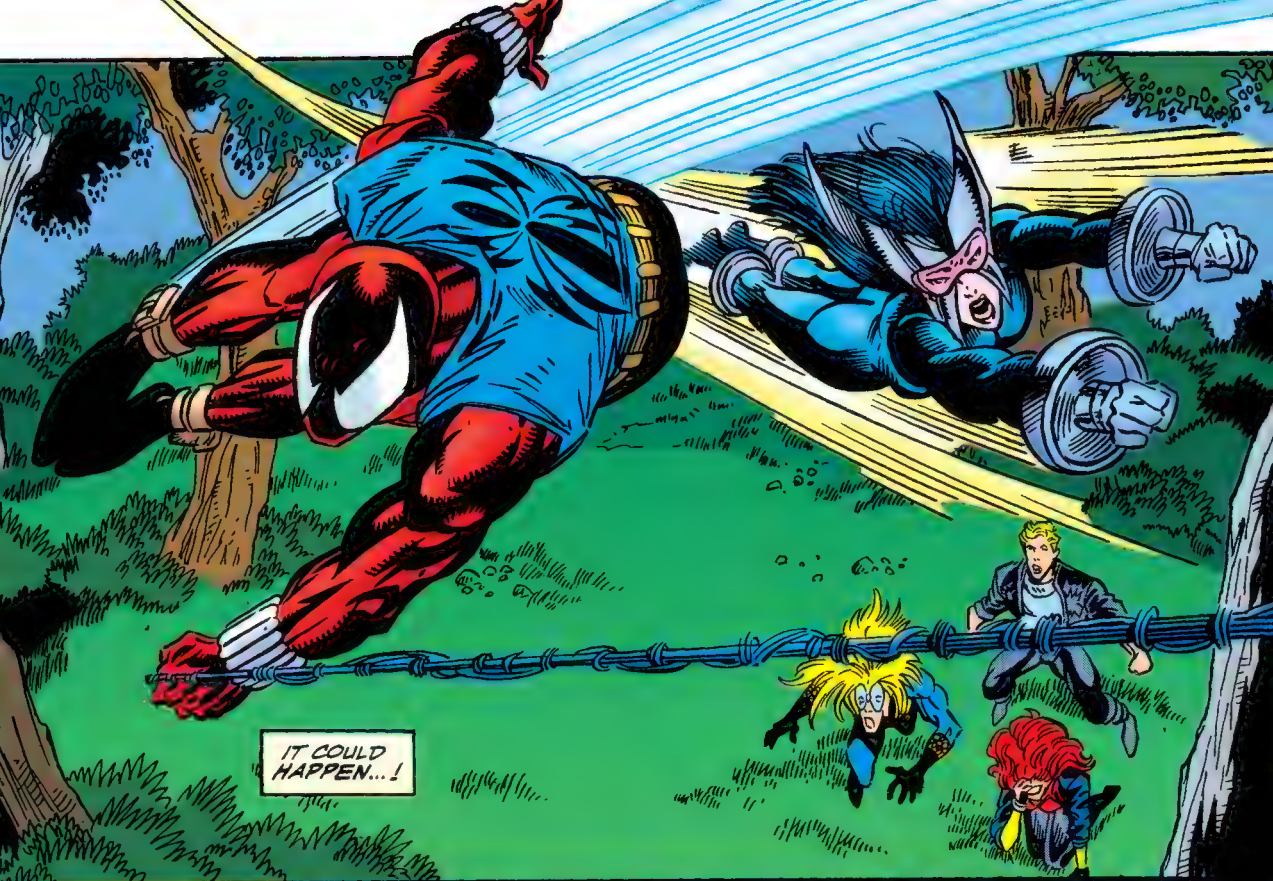
--I'LL TRY TO  
BE AS GENTLE  
AS POSSIBLE!

MAYBE ONCE THEY REALIZE  
THAT I'M NOT TRYING TO  
HURT THEM--THAT I'M NOT  
ON THE OFFENSIVE--



--THEY'LL SLOW DOWN  
LONG ENOUGH FOR ME  
TO GET A WORD IN  
EDGEWISE!!





IT COULD HAPPEN...!

AT THAT MOMENT,  
NOT FAR AWAY--



I DON'T KNOW WHAT'S  
GOIN' ON--OR WHAT'S  
HAPPENING TO ME--

--BUT I DO KNOW THAT THE  
LAST THING I WANT IS SOME  
DUDES TYIN' ME DOWN AN'  
POKIN' AT ME--!



HELLO,  
KID--

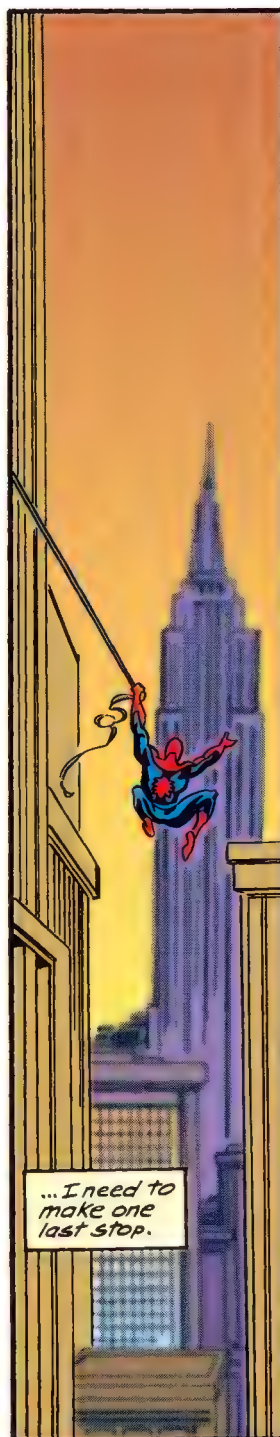
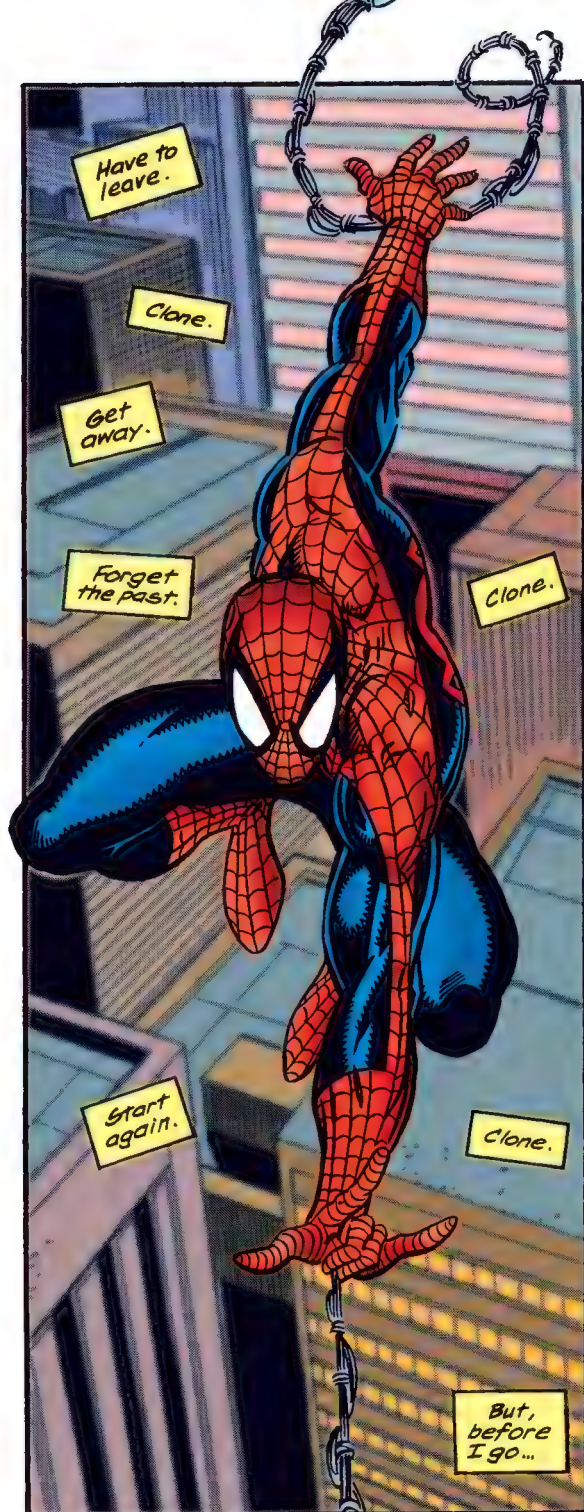
--I'M HERE  
TO TALK TO YOU  
ABOUT WHY  
YOU'RE NOT  
**DEAD!!!**

**YEEAAAAA!!!!**



WHA...?



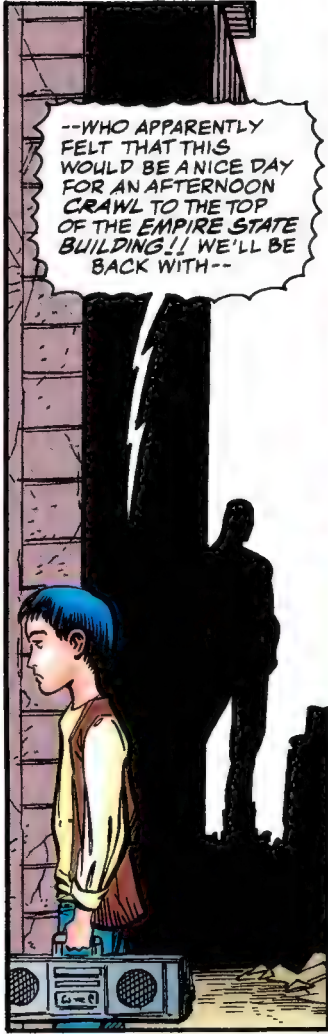


--the LAST TIME I was here...

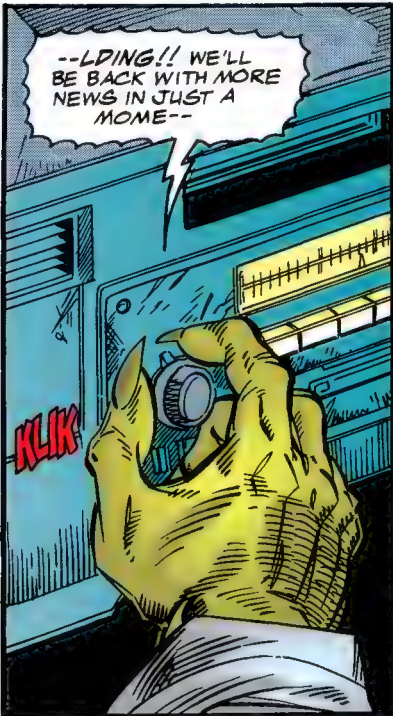




...THROUGHOUT THE MIDTOWN AREA, CRANING THEIR NECKS SKYWARD, IN AN ATTEMPT TO CATCH A GLIMPSE OF THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN--



--WHO APPARENTLY FELT THAT THIS WOULD BE A NICE DAY FOR AN AFTERNOON CRAWL TO THE TOP OF THE EMPIRE STATE BUILDING!! WE'LL BE BACK WITH--



--LDING!! WE'LL BE BACK WITH MORE NEWS IN JUST A MOM--

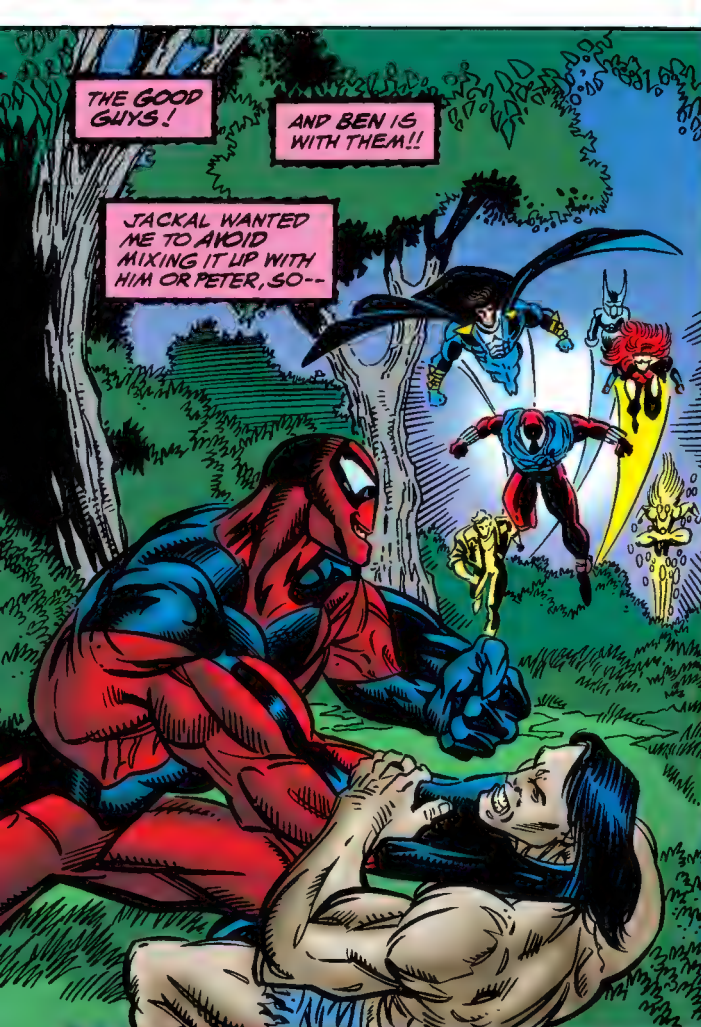


POOR PETER...

ALL MESSED UP AND NO PLACE TO GO.

OH, I KNOW... I'LL GO AND SURPRISE HIM...





THE GOOD GUYS!

AND BEN IS WITH THEM!!

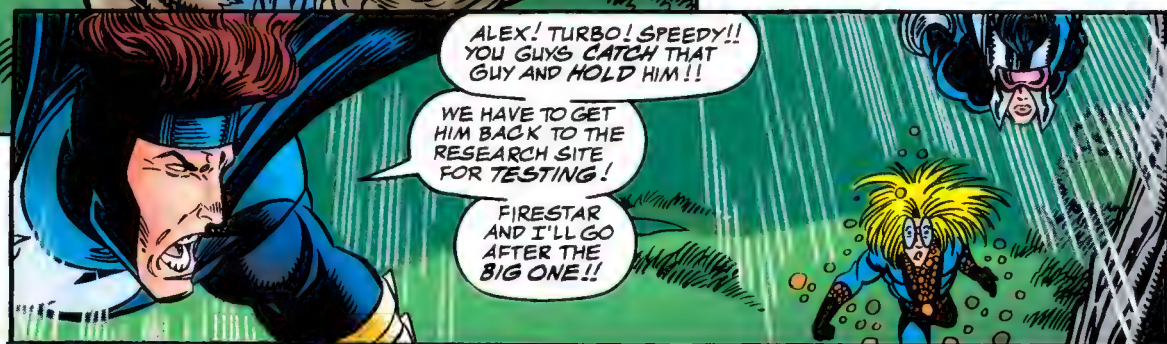
JACKAL WANTED ME TO AVOID MIXING IT UP WITH HIM OR PETER, SO--



YOU WANT HIM, KIDS--

--GO AND GET 'IM!!

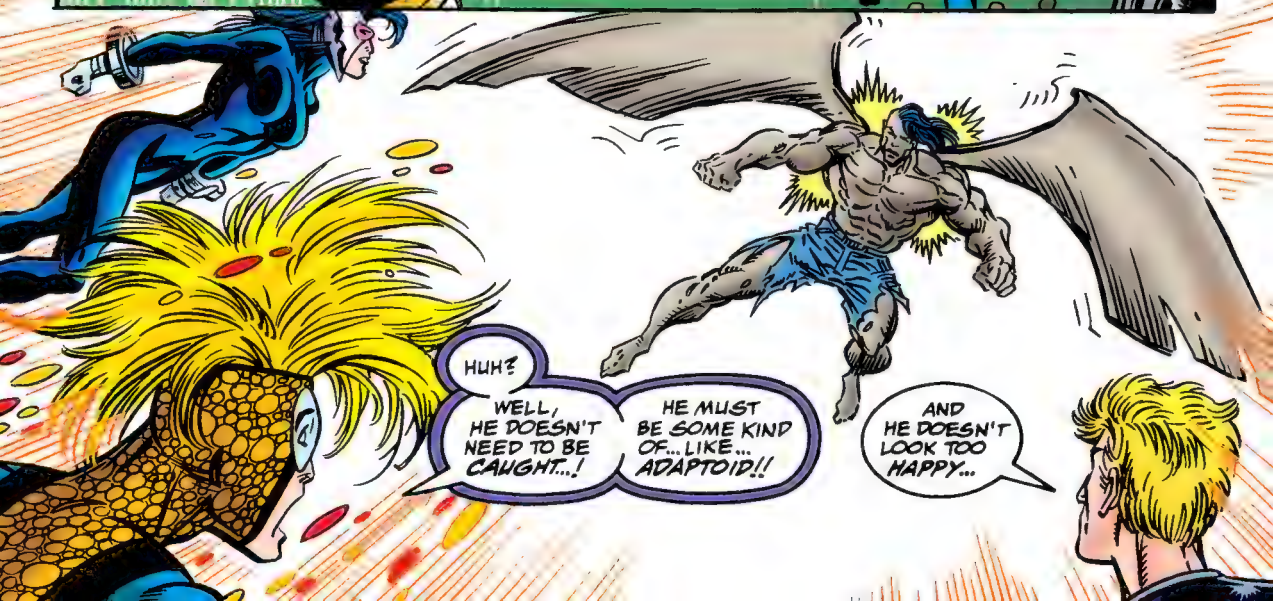
OH! GREAT!



ALEX! TURBO! SPEEDY!! YOU GUYS CATCH THAT GUY AND HOLD HIM!!

WE HAVE TO GET HIM BACK TO THE RESEARCH SITE FOR TESTING!

FIRESTAR AND I'LL GO AFTER THE BIG ONE!!



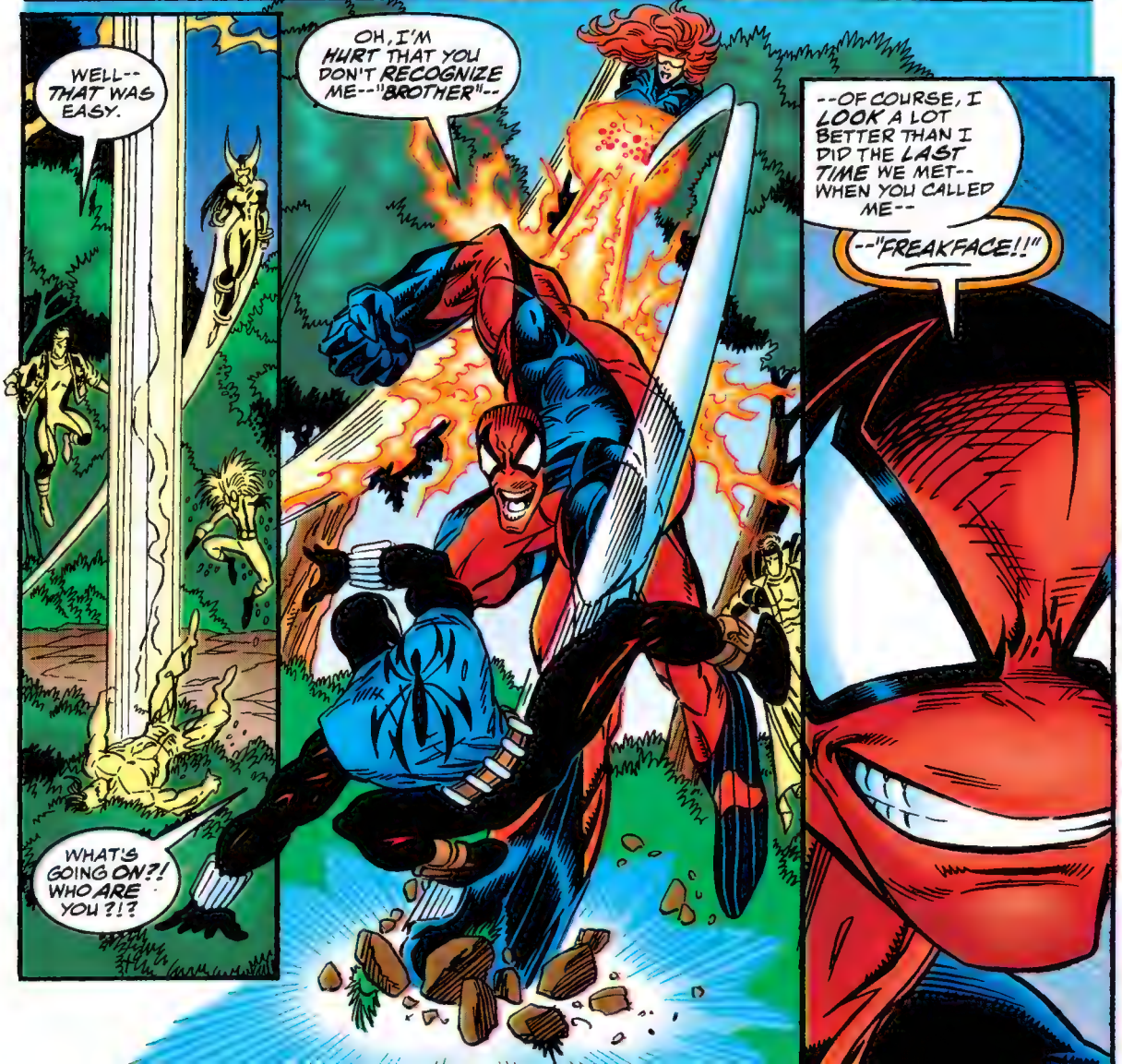
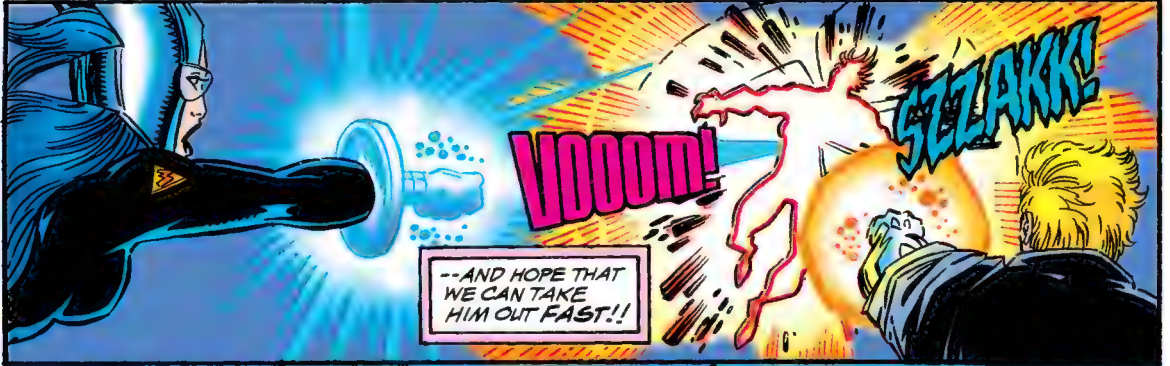
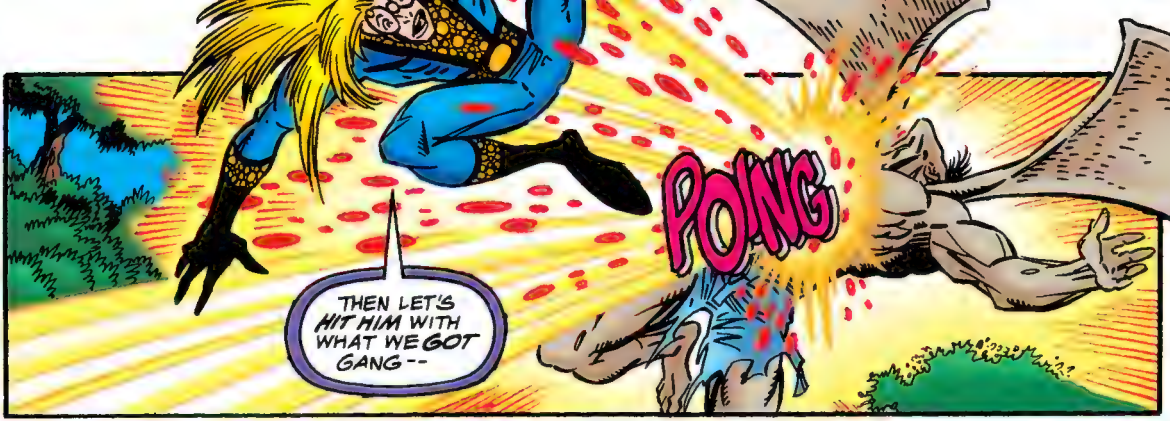
HUH?

WELL, HE DOESN'T NEED TO BE CAUGHT...!


HE MUST BE SOME KIND OF... LIKE... ADAPTOID!!

AND HE DOESN'T LOOK TOO HAPPY...







A comic book page featuring Spider-Man and his clone, Spidercide, in a forest. Spider-Man is shown in his classic red and blue suit, while Spidercide is a darker, more menacing version. They are engaged in a physical fight, with Spider-Man being thrown back. The scene is dynamic, with motion lines and sound effects like 'SPLRSSH!' and 'WHUD!' indicating the impact of their blows. In the background, other characters like Wolverine and Storm are visible, watching the fight. The dialogue reveals that Spider-Man has a 'better name' and that Spidercide is his clone, created by Jackal.

I HAVE A  
MUCH BETTER  
NAME NOW--  
MORE  
APPROPRIATE--!

"DAD" CAME  
UP WITH IT--  
HE CALLS ME--

--SPIDERCIDE!!

SPLRSSH!

WHUD!

SO, YOU'RE  
STILL THE  
JACKAL'S LITTLE  
PAWN?

--AND HE'S  
GONE BACK  
WHERE IT ALL  
BEGAN...!

HA! I'M  
MY OWN  
CLONE,  
NOW--

SPSH



Oh, Aunt May--

--When we were up here  
for the last time, you  
told me that you **KNEW**--

--knew that I was  
**SPIDER-MAN**--

--and you told me that  
you were **PROUD** of  
me-- that I was a  
**GOOD** man.

But I'm **NOT**! I'm  
**NOT** a man!! I'm  
a **CLONE**! A **FAKE**!  
A **COPY**!

I'm **NOTHING**!--

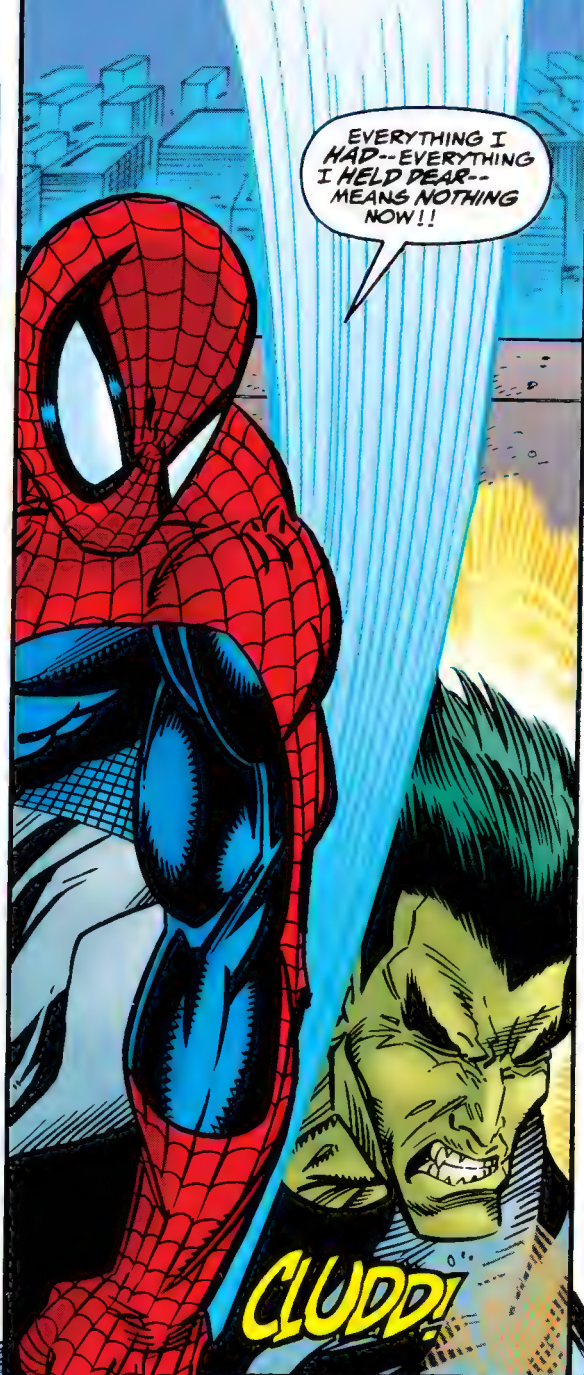
EXCUSE  
ME, DO YOU  
HAVE A  
**PENNY**...?

THERE'S  
SOMETHING I'VE  
WANTED TO TRY  
FROM UP HERE  
EVER SINCE I  
WAS A KID!!

**JACKAL!!!**  
YOU EVIL,  
MANIPULATIVE--

GO  
ON...!







METHINKS THOU DOST  
PROTEST TOO MUCH,  
PETER! I DIDN'T  
DESTROY YOUR LIFE...

...I  
GAVE  
YOU  
LIFE!!

WHY I  
REMEMBER  
WHEN YOU WERE  
JUST A SMEAR  
IN A PETRIE  
DISH...

WOKK!

...YOU  
HAD A LOT OF  
SPUNK THEN,  
TOO!

BUT I'M  
AFRAID THAT THIS  
PART OF THE  
EXPERIMENT IS  
OVER!

TIME TO  
PACK UP AND  
PUT EVERYTHING  
BACK WHERE IT  
BELONGS--

--INCLUDING  
YOU!!

KRAK!



BACK IN SPRINGVILLE--

...THAT OTHER SPIDER-GUY, I GUESS WE JUST LEAPT TO THE WRONG CONCLUSIONS.

I HOPE YOU'LL ACCEPT OUR APOLOGIES.

NO PROBLEM. BELIEVE ME-- I'VE BEEN THERE.

...LUDICROUS...!

GENETECH HOUSES IT'S OWN MAXIMUM SECURITY COMPLEX, FULLY CAPABLE OF MONITORING AND MAINTAINING THE SUBJECT!

TO CONSIGN HIM TO PROTECT PEGASUS SIMPLY BECAUSE YOU HAVE DEEMED HIM TOO DANGEROUS--

... TOO DANGEROUS ...

SPEAKING OF WHICH--

WHERE IS SPIDERCIDE?! THE ULTIMATE SPIDER-CLONE! A CLONE OF... ME!!

HE'S FREE OF THE JACKAL--

-- ABLE TO ALTER HIS SHAPE--

-- ASSUME ANY IDENTITY--!

SUBJECT IS LOCKED AND SECURED.

YOU HAVE THE COORDINATES FOR YOUR DESTINATION?

ROGER THAT--


-- I KNOW RIGHT WHERE WE'RE GOING!

ASSUME ANY IDENTITY!









--BUT I  
CAN SURE BEAT  
**YOU!!**

**TOOOOM**

BECAUSE  
YOU'RE A  
CLONE,  
PETER--

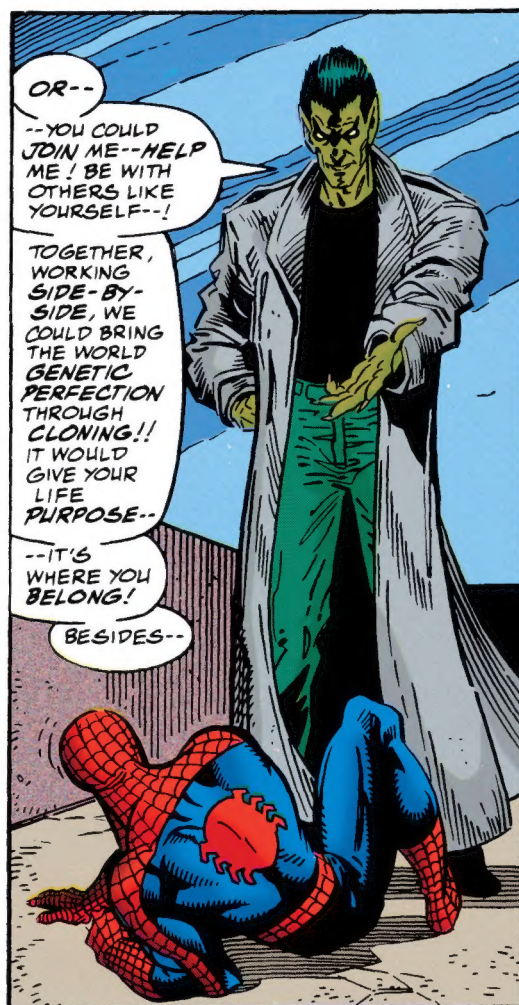
--NOTHING  
BUT A  
CLONE.

A CLONE  
THAT DOESN'T  
BELONG IN THIS  
WORLD OF  
FLAWED  
HUMANS--

--A CLONE  
THAT DOESN'T  
BELONG  
**ANYWHERE!!**

YOUR TIME  
HAS COME--  
BETTER THAT YOU'RE  
SIMPLY **DONE AWAY**  
WITH!!





OR--

--YOU COULD  
JOIN ME--HELP  
ME! BE WITH  
OTHERS LIKE  
YOURSELF--!

TOGETHER,  
WORKING  
SIDE-BY-  
SIDE, WE  
COULD BRING  
THE WORLD  
GENETIC  
PERFECTION  
THROUGH  
CLONING!!  
IT WOULD  
GIVE YOUR  
LIFE  
PURPOSE--

--IT'S  
WHERE YOU  
BELONG!

BESIDES--

--WHAT ELSE  
HAVE YOU GOT...?

Nothing.

I am  
nothing.

I have  
nothing.

Nothing to  
live for.

MAXIMUM CLONAGE CONTINUES  
IN WEB OF SPIDER-MAN #127--  
"THE LAST TEMPTATION OF  
PETER PARKER!"